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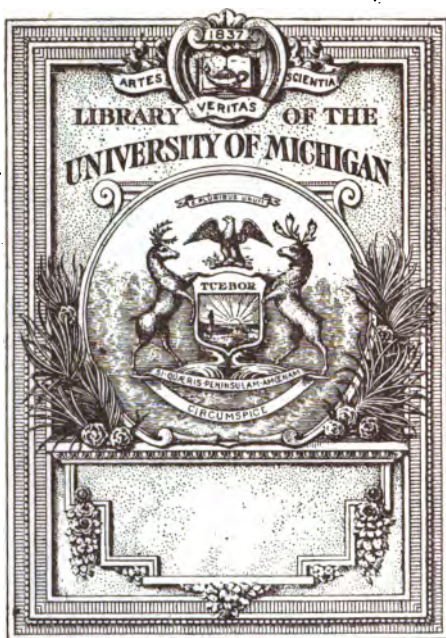
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828
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Johnstone, Charles, 1719? - 1800?

THE

HISTORY

OF

ARSACES,

PRINCE OF BETLIS.

Fidæ, voluptatis causâ, sint proxima veris.

By the EDITOR of CHRYSAL.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOLUME I

L O N D O N:

Printed for T. BECKET, Corner of the
Adelphi, in the Strand, MDCCLXXIV.

11

13 May 20 1744.

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE LORD CAMBDEN.

My LORD,

I Must not make any Apology for claiming your Lordship's Patronage for the following Work. It is a Claim of Right. The Spirit of it is your own. I caught it by long and close Attention to your Lordship ; and now that it is let loose into the World,

DEDICATION.

it naturally flies back to its Parent for Protection. If I have been, so happy as to make the Body worthy of such a Spirit, that is all the Merit I pretend to.

I am, with Attachment and Respect,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most humble
and most obedient Servant,

CHARLES JOHNSTON.

—May 17, 1774.

P R E F A C E.

IN this enlightened age, when men judge intuitively of all things, it may not be improper to say a few words concerning the following work, if only to save critical sagacity from the misfortune of being led astray by the title.

In the History of the Prince of Betlis, there is not one soft scene of love, one sentiment of loose desire. Outrageous Virtue is never gratified with anecdotes of private Scandal; nor Licentiousness flattered with the sacred name of Liberty.

It

It must not, though, be concluded from hence, that Arfaces is a meer moralist, or held up as a pattern of perfection, a monster which Nature never formed. He is drawn as he was, with all his faults upon his head, subject to the power, but not the slave of Passion ; and speaks with freedom the sentiments suggested by the occasion, whether gay or grave, of reprehension or applause.

To wipe off the false colourings of Prejudice, and shew Truth in her native purity, is the writer's aim. How he has succeeded, is not for him to say. There is, at least, some merit in the attempt, and upon that he humbly rests his fate.

Amid

P R E F A C E. vii

Amid the variety of incidents, with which our hero's life was filled, the learned reader may probably not be displeased to find some curious points of history brought to light, which have too long lain in undeserved obscurity: - Nor will he be offended at the writer's not having paid more minute attention to the manners of the times and countries, in which the various scenes of his work are laid. He has endeavoured to draw the universal manners of Nature, which suit all climes and ages. Greater particularity would have been only pedantry.

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H I S T O R Y
O F
A R S A C E S,
PRINCE O F B E T L I S.

BOOK THE FIRST.

SECTION I.

AS Temugin was riding through his army, on the morning after his victory over Mohammed had added the mighty empire of Khouarefm to his boundless conquests, he observed among the captives of the war, a youth just sinking under a double weight of chains, while the dignity of conscious virtue shone through his distress, and shewed a soul superior to misfortune.

VOL. I.

B

Temugin

2 *The HISTORY of ARSACES,*

Temugin was struck with the sight, and calling to the leader of the band, which guarded the captives, enquired who that youth was, and how he had merited such severity.

‘Lord of the Earth,’ answered the soldier, ‘this slave deserveth every cruelty which can be inflicted on him. He it was, who yester evening slew the valiant Togrul; and by his obstinate resistance, for some time delayed the victory, which crowned your arms.’

‘Say rather,’ returned the captive, with a look and accent of indignant contempt, ‘that I supported faithfully the cause in which I fought; and disdaining life, without its greatest blessing, liberty, strove, though alas! in vain, to lose both honourably together.’

The manner in which the captive spoke these words, heightened the favourable impression which his appearance had before made

made upon the heart of Temugin. ‘ Take
‘ off his chains,’ said he, ‘ and lead him
‘ to my tent : I will examine him more
‘ particularly, when I shall be at better
‘ leisure.’

The soldier instantly obeyed ; and the
captive, prostrating himself before the em-
peror, expressed his gratitude for a favour,
which darted a ray of hope through the
gloom of his present situation.

Other cares prevented Temugin from
thinking more of this adventure for the
remainder of that day ; but when he re-
tired in the evening to rest, the idea of
the captive recurred to his mind, and took
such strong possession of it, as to forbid
every approach of sleep. Calling there-
fore one of the eunuchs, who watched at
the entrance of his tent, he commanded
him to order his attendance.

As soon as the captive entered, ‘ I have
‘ sent for thee,’ said the emperor, ‘ to
‘ learn

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‘ learn the story of thy life. What is
‘ thy country, thy lineage, and thy name?
‘ And by what actions hast thou supported
‘ the sentiments, which I have heard thee
‘ utter with such energy? Arise! speak
‘ the words of truth, and expect a candid
‘ hearing.’

‘ ‘ Conqueror of the World,’ answered
the captive, as he arose from the emperor’s feet, ‘ the incidents of a life of mis-
‘ fortune will afford but little entertain-
‘ ment, to one who is raised above the
‘ reach of such himself; as they cannot
‘ interest a sympathetic regard.’

‘ ‘ No state,’ interrupted the emperor, ‘ is
‘ exempt from the common lot of huma-
‘ nity: nor is he capable of enjoying
‘ happiness himself, who is insensible to
‘ the sufferings of another.’

The captive replied not; but seating himself on the ground, at the foot of the emperor’s couch, began in these words.

SECTION II.

• MY name is Selim. I come from
• the Valley of Amoim, in Arabia, the
• Happy ; where the wisdom and virtues
• of Abudah, my father, procured him,
• in a private station, a respect more sin-
• cere, than that which is usually paid, to
• wealth and power. Much had he read,
• and thought still more. He had also tra-
• velled through many nations ; and by
• a comparison of their manners, dispelled
• the prejudices which too often spread a
• cloud over a contracted sphere.

• But he was stopped in his pursuit of
• knowledge, by the nearer duties of do-
• mestic life. The cultivation of his mind
• had refined, not extinguished the pas-
• sions of nature. He viewed in a light
• of just contempt, the mistaken, imper-
• fect happiness of celibacy ; and in obe-
• dience to the first purpose of his Crea-
• tion, took a wife into his bosom.

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• Heaven seemed at first to smile upon
• his marriage-bed; but the blossoms of
• his hope were soon blasted; the hour
• which gave him a son, depriving him
• of a wife.

• Severely as he felt this loss, he sunk
• not under it. Reason succeeded the first
• emotions of nature; and his piety trem-
• bled at the apprehension of offending
• heaven, by repining at its irresistible
• decrees. — Pardon, gracious lord, this
• mention of a father, to whom life is my
• least obligation. It is a necessary intro-
• duction to the story of my misfortune.
• It is a tribute to his memory, which
• Nature will obtrude through all re-
• straint.

• 'Disgrace not reason,' answered Te-
• mugin, 'by making an excuse for vir-
• tue. Duty to a father, as it is the foun-
• dation, so also is it the best assurance of
• loyalty to a sovereign. A good son can-
• not be a bad subject.—Proceed.'

• The

• The love, resumed the captive, wiping away the pious tear, which trickled down his cheek, which Abudah had felt for his wife, was transferred to her wretched orphan, and doubled the force of paternal affection. As soon as he had paid the last debt of humanity to her beloved remains, he laid me in his bosom, and turned his steps home to his native land, where his tenderness well supplied the loss I had sustained.

• His first care was to lay a foundation for that health, which is necessary for the enjoyment of life, and the performance of all its duties. He taught me to feel no wants but those of nature, whose inevitable imbecilities were not aggravated by injudicious fondness. Hunger sweetened the most simple fare; and exercise made me find refreshment in sleep, which was never allured by luxury, nor indulged to enervating excess; while my body, gradually inured to the vicissitudes of the seasons, required not

8 *The* HISTORY of ARSACES,

‘ the voluptuous incumbrance of cloath-
‘ ing to screen it from the severest incle-
‘ mencies of weather. My food was vege-
‘ tables. I drank of the brook : and I
‘ wore no cloaths but barely what the laws
‘ of decency demanded.

‘ Yet intent as he was on establishing
‘ my health, his care was not confined to
‘ that alone. As soon as the first dawn
‘ of reason began to enlighten my mind,
‘ he directed my thoughts to such objects,
‘ as necessarily led to wisdom and virtue.
‘ He imprinted upon my soul a just sense
‘ of the obedience which I owed to the
‘ Author of my being, by explaining to
‘ me my dependance on him. He taught
‘ me to read the sacred proofs of his wis-
‘ dom, his goodness, and his power, in
‘ the tremendous volume of his works.
‘ The stars of heaven shewed me the
‘ glory of their Maker. The sun by day,
‘ and the moon by night bore witness to
‘ his power. My soul was humbled before
‘ the Lord of the Universe, and adored
‘ the

‘ the goodness which incessantly supports
‘ the creatures of his hand.

“ As the life of man is designed for
“ action, he would say, all knowledge
“ which leadeth not to the practice of
“ virtue, is but vanity.” — While my
‘ mind therefore was expanded by these
‘ sublime speculations, he explained to
‘ me the principles and reason of every
‘ duty of social and civil life; proving
‘ that obedience, which ariseth not from
‘ conviction of the justice and necessary
‘ obligation of a law, has no more real
‘ merit, than the habitual servility of a
‘ brute animal.

‘ He then unfolded to me the compli-
‘ cated relations in which man stands to
‘ man, both as an individual, and as a
‘ member of a community; and from
‘ them deduced all the various duties of
‘ either state. “ The highest degree of
“ perfection,” would he frequently say,
“ to which the human nature can arise,

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“ consisteth in the imitation of the divine,
“ which is possible only in benevolence ;
“ and constitutes the essence of all the
“ moral, social, and civil virtues, how-
“ ever varied in their appearances, in the
“ various circumstances and connections
“ of life, from the peasant in the field,
“ to the prince upon his throne.”

“ The example of his actions enforced
“ the precepts of his wisdom, and led me
“ insensibly to practise the virtues he in-
“ culcated, as rising years afforded ability.
“ I suffered hunger, to feed the hungry ;
“ the feeble and aged found a support in
“ the strength of my youth ; and I rushed
“ into danger to rescue the distressed.

“ Nor were his instructions limited to
“ the narrow sphere of our private station.
“ As the powers of my mind became capa-
“ ble of more extended exertion, he raised
“ my view to higher scenes. He traced
“ government to its origin in the gene-
“ ral welfare and happiness of mankind,

“ the source, from which ultimately and
 “ equally flow the different, but reci-
 “ procal duties of subjection and com-
 “ mand; and reconciled their apparent
 “ oppositions, on the unerring principles
 “ of reason.

“ The avidity with which he saw my
 “ soul imbibe the instruction of his words,
 “ made him happy. “ Power, my son,”
 “ he would say, the tear of paternal ten-
 “ derness and pride glistening in his eye,
 “ was originally conferred as a reward of
 “ superior merit and virtue; and still the
 “ hand of heaven doth often most unex-
 “ pectedly raise from the cottage to the
 “ throne, the man who is found worthy
 “ to govern. It is a duty, therefore, to
 “ qualify ourselves to fill properly what-
 “ ever station is appointed for us.”

“ In the pleasing illusion of these fond
 “ reflections, he unfolded to me the ordi-
 “ nances of peace, he taught me the arts,
 “ and inured me to the toils of war. “ That

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“ general happiness, he said, which was
“ the cause, and should be the invariable
“ aim of sovereign power, can be enjoyed
“ only in the shade of public tranquillity,
“ the cultivation of which therefore, as it
“ is the first duty, so is it the true glory
“ of a prince. But then, as the follies
“ and vices of mankind make it impossible
“ always to maintain that most desirable
“ state, it is also indispensibly necessary for
“ him to be able to repel injustice, and
“ assert his rights by war; of which how-
“ ever, as these are the only just motives,
“ so when they are accomplished, he
“ should never let revenge, avarice, or a
“ passion for false glory, inflamed by the
“ deceitful smiles of success, urge him to
“ pursue it farther. He should never for-
“ get that his foes are his fellow-creatures;
“ that his very victories are purchased with
“ the inevitable miseries of his own sub-
“ jects.”—But whither do I fondly run?
“ Why should I repeat the maxims of an
“ humble minded recluse to the Conqueror
“ of the world?”

‘ Pro-

‘ Proceed,’ answered the emperor, ‘ I am attentive to thy words. The sentiments of thy father were suited to his station. Had he been a sovereign he would have thought otherwise.’

SECTION III.

‘ MY mind had followed the words of my father, continued the captive, without difficulty or doubt, while he explained the duties of life, upon the principles of reason, and truth; but when he descended from them to the practice of mankind, when he came to speak of the causes, and consequences of war, the scene was changed. I lost the awe of divine justice, which had led me hitherto; and wandered in the perplexing labyrinth of human life. I saw nothing but contradictions in the ways of man. All professed to seek happiness, but wilfully turned away from the paths, which led directly to it. All professed virtue, but practised vice.

‘ False

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• False shame, (should I not rather call
• it pride!) would not permit me to dis-
• close the difficulties in which I was en-
• tangled, to my father. I thought I
• could struggle through them, by the
• strength of my own mind, without be-
• traying my weakness, by having re-
• course to his assistance. A presumption,
• justly punished by all the miseries I have
• suffered since.

• Destitute thus of the guide, who had
• always led my steps in safety, I attempted
• in vain to grope my way, through the
• darkness, with which I was enveloped
• on every side. I attempted to trace
• consequences to their causes; but the
• attempt still left me in greater uncer-
• tainty. I saw vice triumphant! I saw
• virtue depressed! I was utterly at a loss
• to know, whence this could proceed.
• If from good, why was the contrary
• prescribed? If from evil, why was it
• permitted? My mind was perplexed
• with many doubts. I attempted to
• measure

' measure the ways of heaven with the
 ' line of human reason, but it was too
 ' short; and the more I thought of the
 ' subject, I was only perplexed the more;
 ' in so much, that I was at sometimes al-
 ' most tempted to doubt, whether virtue
 ' and vice differ'd more than in name!
 ' Whether heaven really interfered in the
 ' government of the world, or left it
 ' merely to chance.

' As I sat one evening, on the bank of
 ' the rivulet, which runs through the vale
 ' of Amoim, wrapt in these speculations,
 ' my senses were suddenly overwhelmed
 ' with sleep, and I saw, as in a vision, a
 ' Being, such as the celestial spirits, who
 ' watch over the actions of mankind, are
 ' represented to be, standing beside me.

' Regarding me for some time, with a
 ' look of reprehension softened by pity,
 " Son of Abudah," methought he said, in
 ' a voice which thrilled my soul, " thy un-
 " happiness is beheld with compassion. I
 " come

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“ come to put a stop to researches, which
“ if pursued too far, would over-turn
“ reason. Thy knowledge is only specu-
“ lative. Thou seest man, but as in a
“ mirrour; and dost thou attempt to in-
“ vestigate all the mysteries of his nature!
“ Vain presumption! First look into real
“ life; nor pretend to judge of the sub-
“ stance from the shadow.”—Saying this
“ he vanished from my sight; and at that
“ instant I awoke.

“ It was some moments before I re-
“ covered from the extatick awe, with
“ which this vision struck me. Starting
“ up at length, and continuing the illusion
“ of imagination, I looked eagerly around
“ for my kind instructor; and could hard-
“ ly believe that I had seen him only in a
“ dream.

“ Nor did the discovery put an end to
“ that illusion. I considered the words of
“ my father, “that heaven often opens its
“ will in the visions of sleep, when the
“ soul,

“ soul, freed from the clogs of sense, is
“ more capable of entering into inter-
“ course with the spiritual beings, which
“ continually surround us, though im-
“ perceptible to corporeal sight.” — And
‘ I looked upon the reverential awe, with
‘ which I had been over-powered, as an
‘ incontestible proof, that the being, I
‘ had seen, was my better angel, sent to
‘ me with a command from heaven, to
‘ which it was my duty to pay implicate,
‘ and instant obedience.

‘ But this obedience was attended with
‘ difficulties of the weightiest nature.
‘ Against the will of my father, I was
‘ sensible that it would be impious to be-
‘ gin, in vain to expect success in any
‘ undertaking: And the anxiety he al-
‘ ways shewed, if the ardour of the
‘ chace, or any other accident detained
‘ me out of his sight, only a few
‘ minutes longer than he expected, left
‘ me no room for hope, that he would
‘ consent to my plunging thus alone, into
‘ the

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the difficulties and dangers of the world.

In a cooler moment, this reflection would have been sufficient to deter me from any attempt: but my soul was now on fire; and inclination, co-operating with the power of imagination, proved too strong for reason. I thought I only preferred the superior duty, expressly commanded by heaven, when I resolved to leave my father's house, that very night; and launch into the boundless ocean of life, without giving him any notice of my design; an expedient, by which I flattered myself, that by avoiding an express inhibition, I evaded the crime of direct disobedience, never remembering the maxims invariably inculcated by him, "that candour is of the essence of every virtue;" and that "no good, in the end proposed, can justify any evil in the means made use of to attain it."

Vain

‘ Vain as this evasion was, it silenced
‘ all my scruples ; and I attended the
‘ call of my father to our evening’s repast,
‘ with a serenity in my looks, which my
‘ heart was far from feeling.

‘ But my soul soon shrunk back from
‘ such deceit, and I dared not to meet
‘ his eye, or return with equal warmth
‘ the kiss of love, with which he sealed
‘ his benediction, when he dismissed me,
‘ as he fondly hoped, to rest. Inauspicious
‘ omen ! Alas, too strictly fulfilled by
‘ the unhappy event. Oh ! where was
‘ then my guardian angel ? Why had not
‘ my soul some presage, that this kiss
‘ would be the last, with which I should
‘ ever be blessed by him ! That thought
‘ would have opened my eyes ; and
‘ brought me back to reason, and to
‘ virtue.’—

A flood of tears here choked the utterance of Selim. He hung down his head ; and sobbing aloud gave vent to the

the grief, with which the recital of this unhappy event had over-charged his heart; while Temugin kindly sympathizing with him, interrupted not the pious offering of filial duty and affection.

SECTION IV.

NATURE at length being relieved by this indulgence, the captive thus continued. ‘ Having but few wants, I required little preparation for my intended expedition. As soon as my father retired into his own tent to rest, I girded on the sabre, and mounting the horse, which he had provided for me to learn the exercises of war, departed without having so much as considered whither I should direct my steps.

‘ But my infatuation was too strong to permit my attending to any thing, beside-compleating my escape. I therefore travelled forward during the whole night, without bestowing one thought on the
‘ folly

‘folly and danger of such an undetermined state; or stopping even for a moment, till the appearance of day reminded me of the duties of religion, when alighting from my horse, and sprinkling my face with an handful of sand, for I had no water to perform the ablution, I offered up the prayers of the morning.’—‘Break not your narrative thus, by enumerating the performance of religious duties,’ interrupted Temugin; ‘We will suppose them always regularly performed.’ The captive bowed his head in obedience, and proceeded.

‘The sacred awe which always accompanies acts of devotion, stilled for some moments the tumult in my mind, and turned my thoughts in upon myself. I started at the first glimpse of my situation, which now began to open upon me. I dared not to look back; and before me, all was darkness and dismay.

‘I paused

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• I paused to consider how I should proceed, but before I could determine upon any thing, the power of determining for myself was taken from me. A troop of Bedouins rushed from the covert of some trees, near to which I had stopped, and seized me as I lay prostrate on the earth.

• All the horrors of my situation instantly arose to my view. The more than brutal ignorance and barbarity of those lawless ravagers, of which I had heard too many melancholy instances, left me but little hope of favour at their hands. However, in the instinctive impulse of self-preservation, I threw myself at the feet of their leader, and embracing his knees, conjured him to take compassion on my youth, and suffer me to return to an aged father, whose grey hairs the loss of his only son would otherwise bring with sorrow to the grave.

• But

* But I prayed to the winds. Instead
‘ of being moved by my intreaties, the
‘ ruffian spurned me from him with his
‘ foot; and nodding to his followers, they
‘ instantly bound my arms, and putting
‘ me on my horse, led me away with
‘ them.

‘ What I now felt, at the thought of
‘ being thus torn, probably forever, from
‘ the arms of my father, suggested to me
‘ the anguish of his soul, on missing me
‘ that morning. I saw, tho’ too late,
‘ my crime in its proper colours; I owned
‘ the justice of heaven, in my own fate;
‘ and only grieved for the unhappiness
‘ with which I had overwhelmed him.

‘ But I was not suffered to indulge such
‘ reflections. The rapidity, with which
‘ the ravagers hurried me along, kept my
‘ spirits in involuntary motion; and the
‘ novelty of their manners excited a cu-
‘ riosity, which in some degree diverted
‘ my attention from my own distress.

‘ On

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‘ On a division of the captives of the
‘ expedition, I fell to the lot of the leader
‘ of the troop, by whom I was appointed
‘ to the lowest offices in his squalid œco-
‘ nomy. But I repined not. I remem-
‘ bered the words of the prophet, that
“ the days of man are numbered ; and
“ the events of his life written on the
“ table, which standeth before the throne
“ of God, from the beginning of the
“ world.”—I therefore humbled myself
‘ before heaven ; and submitted without
‘ murmuring to its decrees.

‘ Nor did this resignation, to the divine
‘ will, pass without reward. It was taken
‘ by my master for a willing acquiescence
‘ under his authority ; and in a short time
‘ gained me his good opinion so far, that
‘ he set me over the other slaves of his
‘ household.

SECTION V.

‘ THE first use which I made of my
‘ new authority, was to lighten the yoke
‘ of bondage upon my fellow-captives.
‘ They received sufficient sustenance ; their
‘ labours were suited to their strength and
‘ capacities ; and their souls were not
‘ wounded by unmerited insult or re-
‘ proach,

‘ The consequence soon justified this
‘ conduct. The work of our master was
‘ performed to his satisfaction ; and he
‘ slept in safety among slaves, who had
‘ no cause to wish him evil.

‘ But I was far from enjoying such
‘ happiness as they seemed to feel at this
‘ change of their condition. My soul,
‘ impressed with the deepest sense of piety
‘ and virtue, was shocked at such an ab-
‘ sence of both, as degraded man below
‘ the level of the brutes which perish ;
‘ and I trembled with fear, that the force

‘ of example might infect my heart, and
 ‘ sink me down to their degenerated state.
 ‘ Moral virtue and religion, my father
 ‘ had often and most earnestly inculcated
 ‘ to me, are so essentially connected, that
 ‘ the one cannot exist without the other.
 ‘ Of the truth of this maxim I had abund-
 ‘ ant proof in my present situation.

‘ As the revelations of the divine will,
 ‘ vouchsafed as guides to reason in mat-
 ‘ ters above the investigation of its own
 ‘ powers, were either utterly unknown,
 ‘ or at least so corrupted as to bear no
 ‘ resemblance to the sacred originals; so
 ‘ were the very rules of conduct, and
 ‘ mutual intercourse invariably imprinted
 ‘ by the hand of Nature on the human
 ‘ heart, for the most part effaced among
 ‘ them. Their knowledge of a Deity
 ‘ was uncertain, and debased with notions
 ‘ contradictory to those principles of his
 ‘ essence, which open themselves to rea-
 ‘ son in its first efforts. For beneficence
 ‘ or gratitude they had not even a name;
 ‘ and

‘ and justice was no farther known or regarded by them, than as it served the convenience of preserving their respective property, and having that recourse to force among themselves, by which all their disagreements with others were decided.

‘ Though the horrors inseparable from slavery, were aggravated an hundred fold under such masters, I never lost hope; nor slackened my assiduity in the execution of the trust committed to me. “ I will do my duty,” said I, whenever despair began to steal upon me, “ and depend upon the justice of Heaven.” A resolution, which by keeping my thoughts employed, prevented them from brooding over my own unhappiness, and thereby enabled me to support its weight.

‘ The effects of my management soon became too evident to remain unnoticed; though my master, who held it

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‘ beneath him to look so low, was the
‘ last to perceive the change. Awakened
‘ at length from his inattention, he gazed
‘ around him in stupid amazement; and
‘ enquiring the cause of what he saw,
‘ opened his eyes and mouth into a broad
‘ stare, while I explained the reasons, and
‘ instanced the advantages of my con-
‘ duct; then awkwardly relaxing his fea-
‘ tures into the first smile of complacency
‘ they had ever felt, expressed something
‘ like approbation.

‘ Nor did he stop here. He repre-
‘ sented me in so favourable a light to
‘ the tribe, that looking upon me now
‘ as one of themselves, they admitted me
‘ to accompany them in their excursions
‘ for prey; an honour never before con-
‘ ferred upon a captive.

SECTION VI.

• THOUGH such a course of life
• was equally contrary to the principles
• instilled into me by my father, and to
• the disposition of my own heart, the
• hope of one day regaining my liberty,
• and returning to him, which it seemed
• to open to me, outweighed every other
• consideration, and strengthened my hand
• on several occasions in such a manner
• as gained the approbation of my new
• companions.

• I had not been long in this state,
• when in one of our expeditions, we
• happened to fall in with a caravan, so
• numerous and well provided for de-
• fence, that it appeared madness in us to
• attack them.

• But the prospect of rich plunder,
• over-balanced every thought of danger ;

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‘ and we fell upon them with the fury of
‘ wild beasts enraged by hunger, rather
‘ than like human creatures.

‘ The event was such as the rashness
‘ of the attempt deserved; and we were
‘ repulsed, with the loss of more than
‘ half our number.

‘ As I was not blinded by the same
‘ passions with the rest of our troop, I
‘ had presence of mind to effect our re-
‘ treat, after they had all given up every
‘ hope of it; the importance of which
‘ service raised me so high in their opi-
‘ nion, that their leader being among the
‘ slain, they conferred his post upon me.

‘ This seeming honour, only added
‘ anxiety to additional fatigue; for as
‘ they pay implicit obedience to the
‘ orders of their leader, during their
‘ excursions, the care of conducting
‘ which is thrown entirely upon him;
‘ so

‘ so every failure of success is imputed
 ‘ to him as a crime, and exposes him to
 ‘ worse than brutal outrage.

‘ But the fascination of command,
 ‘ made me blind to every objection;
 ‘ and I entered upon my new office
 ‘ with all the eagerness of inexperience,
 ‘ encouraging myself with this reflection,
 ‘ that at any rate it was better to rule
 ‘ than to serve such savages: and that I
 ‘ should have it in my power to direct
 ‘ their motions to the way most favour-
 ‘ able to my escaping from them.

‘ As I saw that disappointment of the
 ‘ plunder sat heavier upon the survivors
 ‘ than the loss of their fellows, I con-
 ‘ sidered whether it might not still be
 ‘ possible to compass by stratagem, what
 ‘ we had failed of by force; and revolv-
 ‘ ing in my mind various schemes, I at
 ‘ length hit upon one, which proved
 ‘ successful.

‘ For some days after our defeat, we
 ‘ hovered about the caravan, unable to
 ‘ bear the thought of quitting it, and
 ‘ giving up our hopes, though we could
 ‘ see no prospect of obtaining them.

‘ Having advanced thus a considerable
 ‘ way into the desert, a strong wind arose
 ‘ one morning, just after the caravan had
 ‘ begun to march. This incident in-
 ‘ stantly suggested to me, what I had
 ‘ hitherto wearied my thoughts in fruit-
 ‘ less search of.

‘ Drawing our people out in a single
 ‘ line, at some interval from each other,
 ‘ I led them above the caravan, in the
 ‘ wind; and galloping rapidly along, we
 ‘ raised a cloud of sand, which the wind
 ‘ poured down upon them in a torrent
 ‘ horrible to imagination.

‘ As soon as I had reached the end of
 ‘ the caravan, in this manner, I turned
 ‘ off with the foremost of my followers,
 ‘ and

• and taking a sufficient compass, to
• avoid incommoding our own men, I
• was time enough back in the rear, to
• continue the line, as the last began to
• move.

• Having repeated this, as long as I
• thought it possible for human nature to
• support it, we attacked them in the
• midst of their distress, when sinking
• under what they had suffered, and con-
• cluding, from the manner in which I
• had kept up the line, that our numbers
• must be many times greater than they
• were, they lost all spirit, and made but
• feeble resistance.

• It was impossible for me, in the first
• transports of victory, to prevent a car-
• nage, to which the inequality of num-
• bers unhappily gave the appearance of
• necessity; but as soon as their fury be-
• gan to cool, I exerted myself to put a
• stop to that, and all the other outrages,
• too generally offered to captives.

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‘ The booty gained on this occasion
‘ was so great, as for some time to satisfy
‘ desires which had never known bounds
‘ before ; a circumstance most favourable
‘ to my farther designs.

‘ When the captives were secured, the
‘ next thing was to take measures for our
‘ safe return home, which it was far from
‘ being easy to effect, as we were liable
‘ to be attacked by the other troops of
‘ Bedouins, who range these boundless
‘ deserts, and make no distinction of
‘ persons, where there is a prospect of
‘ prey.

‘ As this care fell entirely upon me,
‘ I resolved to execute it in such a man-
‘ ner, as to procure the liberty of as
‘ many as I could of the captives, whose
‘ lives I had saved. Accordingly, when
‘ all things were in readiness for our
‘ march, I selected those whose youth
‘ made them best able to bear the yoke
‘ of slavery ; and then dismissed the rest
‘ in

‘ in peace, with provisions sufficient for
‘ their journey : an act of humanity un-
‘ known to the Bedouins, whose custom
‘ it was to slay all such captives as they
‘ thought useless to them.

‘ The dispositions I made for our
‘ march, and the vigilance with which it
‘ was conducted, secured our retreat
‘ through the midst of many dangers,
‘ several troops of much superior force
‘ having met us on our way ; but deceived
‘ by our appearance, they did not dare
‘ to attack us.

SECTION VII.

‘ THOUGH the authority of the
‘ leaders of those tribes has relation only
‘ to the conduct of their excursions, and
‘ ceases at their return home, I flattered
‘ myself with a fond hope, that the great
‘ service I had done them would procure
‘ me an influence which might enable
‘ me to do them services still greater, by

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‘ enlightening the brutal ignorance of
‘ their minds, and humanizing their
‘ manners.

‘ I was not insensible of the difficulties
‘ and dangers of attacking prejudices,
‘ grown sacred by long use; and that
‘ ignorance, always captious, seldom fails
‘ to revenge the imaginary affront of in-
‘ struction; but the thought of success
‘ was so pleasing, that I was not to be
‘ discouraged from the attempt by any
‘ apprehension.

‘ The first thing, necessary for accom-
‘ plishing my design, was to select some
‘ person, on whom my instructions might
‘ be bestowed to best advantage, that he
‘ might assist me by communicating the
‘ information he should receive, and re-
‘ commending it from his own experience.
‘ Nor was I long at a loss, whom to
‘ chuse. Khaled, the son of my late
‘ master, was the one in the whole tribe,
‘ with whom I had the greatest intimacy,
‘ whether

‘ whether from the circumstance of our
‘ having lived together, while I belonged
‘ to his father; or that my having once
‘ saved his life at the imminent hazard of
‘ my own, had attached him to me. With
‘ him therefore I resolved to begin, not
‘ more encouraged by our intimacy, than
‘ because I thought I perceived in him
‘ something more like that rational cu-
‘ riosity, which is the first incitement to
‘ knowledge, than in any other of the
‘ tribe.

‘ The only science of which the Bedou-
‘ ins had even the faintest conception,
‘ was that which regards the motions of
‘ the heavenly bodies. But though the
‘ clearness of their hemisphere, and the
‘ circumstance of their being obliged by
‘ the heat of the sun, to perform the
‘ greatest part of their occupations in the
‘ night, gave them the most favourable
‘ opportunities for pursuing this study to
‘ advantage, they had made no farther
‘ progress in it, than barely what was
‘ necessary

' necessary to direct their steps through
 ' the pathless desert, where they could
 ' have no land-marks to guide them in
 ' their way. On this science therefore,
 ' as that most likely to interest their at-
 ' tention, I proposed to found my at-
 ' tempt.

' For this purpose, I took occasion to
 ' enter into conversation with Khaled, as
 ' if accidentally, on the various appear-
 ' ances of the heavens; and beginning
 ' with the first rudiments of the science,
 ' led him, as it were, step by step, up to
 ' the Creator of them, proving the ne-
 ' cessity of his existence from the existence
 ' of his works; and his wisdom, his
 ' power, and his goodness, from the
 ' [wonderful construction, and support of
 ' them.

' Having thus established in his mind,
 ' the first principle of religion, in the
 ' belief of a Deity, I proceeded to de-
 ' duce from thence the duties of piety,
 ' and

‘ and moral virtue. But my endeavours,
‘ in this latter instance, were far from
‘ being attended with equal success.

‘ While my instructions had been con-
‘ fined to matters of meer speculation,
‘ he listened to me with willing attention ;
‘ and not only assented to truths, which
‘ interfered not with the tenour of his
‘ life, but also exerted his utmost assiduity
‘ to communicate and inculcate them to
‘ others.

‘ But when he saw, that an utter change
‘ in his whole conduct was to be the con-
‘ sequence, that passion was to be sub-
‘ jected to reason, and justice made the
‘ rule of action, no evidence, however
‘ clear and conclusive, was of force suffi-
‘ cient to combat habits, pleasing in
‘ practice ; and as it were sanctified by
‘ long and general reception. On the
‘ contrary, from that moment, he with-
‘ drew his confidence from me ; and I
‘ soon

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‘ soon found that he counteracted, instead
‘ of assisting my endeavours.

‘ Though I was well aware of the dif-
‘ ficulties, which this defection of Khaled
‘ threw in the way of my designs, I was
‘ too sanguine in the pursuit to be deterred
‘ by it; and resolved to try, whether I
‘ could not effect by example, what I
‘ had failed of by the force of reason;
‘ taking care to commence with such
‘ things, as from their obvious advantage
‘ in a political, as well as rectitude in a
‘ moral light, I concluded must neces-
‘ sarily command instant assent.

SECTION VIII.

‘ THE loss, sustained in the late expedition, had reduced the numbers of the tribe so low, that they were obliged to remain at home, for fear of being over-powered by some of the other tribes, whom they might meet in their excursions.

‘ As they were sensible of this disadvantage, the severest to them, of which they had any sense, I judged that an attempt to remedy it, must be embraced with the greatest readiness and joy.

‘ Though the violation of the marriage bed, was guarded against among them, by every preventive care, every terror of punishment, the female sex, before that bond, was abandoned to the most shameful prostitution.

‘ Criminal

‘ Criminal as this custom was, the method taken to remedy what were looked upon to be the only bad effects of it, was still a greater crime. The wretched fruits of this licentious commerce were exposed to perish in the desert, without regard to the duty of paternal tenderness, or the welfare of the community thus robbed of its support.

‘ Against a practice, so contradictory to nature, as well as to reason, I urged every argument which either could suggest; and to give weight to my words, began the reformation of it among my own slaves, branding with a mark of infamy every female persisting in promiscuous prostitution; and obliging every male to rear, and maintain by extraordinary labour, every infant assigned to him.

‘ Though, as I have before observed, the public advantage was as obvious, as the

‘ the private virtue of this regulation,
‘ a general outcry was instantly raised
‘ against it. The unmarried of both sexes
‘ exclaimed that they were robbed of the
‘ liberties and rights of nature ; and the
‘ whole tribe declared against the intoler-
‘ able tyranny and crime of such an inno-
‘ vation, which, as they alledged, would
‘ compel people to rear children against
‘ their wills ; and contrary to their con-
‘ venience.

‘ It is impossible to express what I felt
‘ at this utter disappointment of hopes,
‘ upon which I had so strongly set my
‘ heart. I now, too late, remembered
‘ what I had often heard from my father ;
‘ that “ though it is the duty of every
“ person, and especially of those, whose
“ station may give influence to their ex-
“ ample, to live according to the dictates
“ of reason and virtue, yet a general re-
“ formation of manners is not to be too
“ sanguinely expected from the most emi-
“ nent example ; or best concerted scheme,
“ if

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“ if the circumstances of the times are
“ not assisting ; but when these co-operate,
“ the most inconsiderable, and improbable
“ means are found sufficient to accomplish
“ the greatest ends.”—But my thoughts
“ were soon diverted from these reflections,
“ to matters of nearer concern to me.

“ The charge of making innovations in
“ their established customs, was looked
“ upon to be so atrocious a crime, that they
“ resolved instantly to put a stop to it, by
“ the most exemplary punishment, in order
“ to deter any future presumption of the
“ kind ; for which purpose, they suddenly
“ surrounded my tent, and having seized
“ me before I could attempt either defence
“ or escape, were proceeding to drag me
“ out of the camp, in order to stone me
“ to death, when I owed my safety to a
“ principle, from which I had never ex-
“ pected to receive so great a benefit.

“ Khaled, who had totally estranged
“ himself from me, for some time, and
“ was

‘ was now become one of my loudest ac-
‘ cusers, no sooner perceived their inten-
‘ tion, than he rushed out of the crowd,
‘ and claimed me for his slave, as having
‘ been the property of his father.

‘ I availed myself of the momentary
‘ check, which this claim gave to their
‘ fury, to speak in my own defence. I
‘ demanded to know my crime, and my
‘ accusers. I pleaded my services. I cal-
‘ led upon their gratitude. I argued, up-
‘ braided; and besought; but all equally
‘ in vain. My voice was drowned in the
‘ cry of *innocence*, which was roared from
‘ every mouth; and without deigning to
‘ make any other reply, they directly gave
‘ me up to Khaled, to return to a state
‘ of slavery, from which I was deemed
‘ unworthy to be freed, seizing upon my
‘ slaves, and every thing which belonged
‘ to me, as public property; or rather, I
‘ should say, as proper objects of public
‘ rapine.

‘ As

‘ As soon as the croud was dispersed, I
 ‘ turned to Khaled, and thinking he had
 ‘ devised this claim only to save my life,
 ‘ was advancing to embrace him, in testi-
 ‘ mony of my gratitude ; but I was soon
 ‘ undeceived. Without shewing the least
 ‘ concern for my misfortune, or even
 ‘ taking notice of ever having known me
 ‘ before, he ordered me to be thrown into
 ‘ a kind of dungeon, where they were
 ‘ wont to keep such slaves, as were found
 ‘ unserviceable to them, till a certain sea-
 ‘ son of the year, when they disposed of
 ‘ them, and such other parts of their
 ‘ spoil, as they had no occasion for them-
 ‘ selves, to merchants, whom they went
 ‘ to meet for that purpose, in exchange
 ‘ for matters of more immediate use.

‘ These occurrences were far from clear-
 ‘ ing up the doubts, which had been the
 ‘ cause of my leaving the bosom of my
 ‘ father. On entering the dungeon, my
 ‘ soul shrunk in upon itself in horror.
 ‘ “ If this be real life,” said I, “ better did
 ‘ “ it

“ it appear in the mirrour of speculation.
“ More favourably was the shadow to be
“ judged of, than the substance !” —

‘ It was some happiness to me however,
‘ not, to be left long to these reflections.
‘ That very evening, a party of the
‘ Bedouins set out to meet the merchants,
‘ and took me with them, among the
‘ other useless lumber, which they wanted
‘ to dispose of ; when Khaled shewed his
‘ proficiency in knowledge, and virtue,
‘ by the value he set upon his instructor,
‘ giving me in exchange for a wallet,
‘ made of the skin of an afs.

SECTION IX.

‘ THE merchant, whose property I
‘ thus became, thinking he saw something
‘ in my appearance, not unworthy of his
‘ favour, as soon as the Arabs had con-
‘ cluded their markets, and departed,
‘ asked me in a humane manner, “ for
“ what fault I had been sold at so low a
“ price ?”

‘ As my tongue knew no language but
‘ that of truth, I not only informed him
‘ of what he enquired, but also of the
‘ first motive and manner of my leaving
‘ my father, and the end proposed by my
‘ travels: to all which he listened with
‘ attention; and then told me, when I
‘ had concluded, that “ these were mat-
“ ters, about which he had never con-
“ cerned himself; that all his care was to
“ buy and sell as well as he could; and
“ that he was content to take the world
“ as he found it, without enquiring
“ farther

“ farther into the actions of men, than
“ as they might affect his own interest.”

‘ Contracted as these sentiments then
‘ appeared to me, I was soon sensible of
‘ the advantage in my change of situation.
‘ My new master had much experience
‘ of the world, and its ways; and where
‘ a view to interest did not interfere,
‘ formed just conclusions from what he
‘ saw.

‘ The conversation of such a man,
‘ which I enjoyed in the most unreserved
‘ intimacy, sweetened the bitter cup of
‘ slavery, affording me pleasure, and in-
‘ struction, at the same time. Without
‘ attempting to trace motives, or conse-
‘ quences, he related plain facts; and in
‘ them supplied a kind of artificial expe-
‘ rience, unincumbered with those dis-
‘ quisitions, which for the greater part
‘ only obscure what they pretend to illu-
‘ strate, and are more apt to mislead,
‘ than guide reason to the right way.

‘ One evening, as I was sitting by my-
‘ self in his tent, indulging the fond
‘ hope, which my master’s favour seemed
‘ to open to me, of returning to my
‘ father, he entered, and seating himself
‘ near me, “ Selim,” said he, “ I have
“ observed your demeanor ever since you
“ have been with me, and see that your
“ wisdom much exceeds your age. I have
“ therefore resolved to consult you on an
“ affair, which gives me much anxiety;
“ and if your sentiments concur with
“ mine, shall be glad of your assistance to
“ carry them into execution.

“ I have followed this painful profession
“ of a merchant, with various success,
“ for many years, without being ever able
“ to acquire a sufficiency for the support
“ of old age, in comfort and decency.
“ Often indeed, have I thought myself
“ within sight of the end of my wishes,
“ but some unforeseen misfortune hath as
“ often disappointed my hopes. A re-
‘ verse,

“ verse, which I have too much reason to
“ apprehend at this time.

“ In the course of my present journey,
“ it has been my fortune to purchase a
“ female slave, of such exquisite beauty, and
“ rare accomplishments, that I may well
“ expect to sell her to the Sultan of Cairo,
“ whither I am now going, for so high a
“ price, as shall make the rest of my days
“ happy, if her own perverseness does not
“ prevent me.

“ An invincible melancholy has preyed
“ upon her heart, from the first day of
“ her coming into my possession. She
“ keeps a gloomy silence, which neither
“ threats, promises, nor intreaties can
“ prevail upon her to break. She turns
“ away, with disgust, from every attempt
“ made to entertain her; and the suste-
“ nance she takes is so little, that it shews
“ she wishes to shorten the number of her
“ days.

“ Such a conduct alarms me with ap-
 “ prehensions, not only of missing my
 “ expected profit, but also of losing the
 “ great price I have given for her. A
 “ loss, which I can not bear. What I
 “ have to propose to you therefore, is
 “ that you will strive to insinuate your-
 “ self into her confidence ; I am not in-
 “ sensible of the danger of such a trust ;
 “ but I know your discretion, and depend
 “ upon your virtue.

“ I suspect that her heart fosters some
 “ secret grief ! If it could be discovered,
 “ means might possibly be found to ad-
 “ minister alleviation to it, at least. Will
 “ you then try to make this discovery ?
 “ The human heart finds comfort in the
 “ communication of it's woes ; and if
 “ you can once engage her attention, I
 “ have no doubt, but she will open her-
 “ self to you.”—

“ There was something so uncommon
 “ in the nature of this proposal, that it
 “ raised

‘ raised a curiosity I had never felt before.
‘ Totally engaged in the pursuit of know-
‘ ledge, under the eye of my father, I
‘ had never had any particular intercourse
‘ with the female sex ; nor formed any
‘ notion of that power, which nature has
‘ given them over the heart of man.

‘ I had a desire therefore to see a wo-
‘ man, on whom were founded expecta-
‘ tions, which appeared to me so extraor-
‘ dinary ; and readily undertook a com-
‘ mission, with the dangers of which I
‘ was unacquainted ; if I should not
‘ rather say, that the mention of those
‘ dangers was my first motive for under-
‘ taking it, as it seemed to promise an
‘ opportunity of raising myself still higher
‘ in the opinion of my master, by my
‘ surmounting them.

SECTION X.

‘ THE first time I saw her, she was
 ‘ sitting in her tent, with her eyes fixed
 ‘ upon the ground, and motionless, as if
 ‘ the action of every sense was suspended.

‘ Struck with the sight, I gazed on
 ‘ her, and while my eyes eagerly devoured
 ‘ her beauties, thought I was only study-
 ‘ ing how to address her in the manner
 ‘ most likely to answer the hopes of my
 ‘ master.

‘ I had stood thus for some moments,
 ‘ melting in sensations utterly new to me,
 ‘ when the fair slave, not having perceived
 ‘ my entrance, exclaimed with a sigh,
 ‘ which seemed to burst her heart, “Un-
 ‘ happy Sappho! To what new misery
 ‘ am I reserved?”—

‘ The sound of her voice awoke me
 ‘ from the extasy, in which I had stood
 ‘ entranced.

‘ entranced. Throwing myself eagerly
 ‘ at her feet, “ Lovely Sappho !” said I,
 ‘ seizing her hand, and pressing it to my
 ‘ heart, “ unfold the cause, the nature of
 “ your unhappiness, and depend upon
 “ every effort, in the power of man to
 “ make, for your relief.”

‘ Her surprize at so unexpected an ad-
 ‘ dress deprived her of utterance for some
 ‘ moments. Recovering at length, “ Infi-
 “ dious man,” said she, tearing away her
 ‘ hand with indignation, “ to intrude upon
 “ my solitude, in order to steal the secrets
 “ of my soul ! But your base arts shall
 “ not avail ! In my name, you know
 “ more, than I ever intended to discover !
 “ But more than that shall you never
 “ know.”—Saying which she wrapped
 ‘ herself in her veil ; and resumed her
 ‘ silence, which my most passionate en-
 ‘ treaties could not prevail upon her to
 ‘ break.

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‘ This repulse threw a damp upon my
‘ spirits, which I knew not how to ac-
‘ count for. I was surprized at what I
‘ felt. I questioned my heart, whence it
‘ could proceed ; and at length resolved
‘ it into my anxiety to serve my master,
‘ heightened perhaps, as I thought, by
‘ compassion for so fair a creature.

‘ This thought encouraged me to pro-
‘ ceed, with double assiduity ; in the
‘ execution of the task assigned me. I
‘ walked beside her camel, as she tra-
‘ velled, beguiling the way, with tales
‘ of entertainment ; and verses, which I
‘ hourly composed in praise of her beauty.
‘ I lulled her to sleep with songs of love,
‘ and consolation. (2)

‘ Such a conduct could not fail to affect
‘ an heart naturally susceptible of the ten-
‘ derest impressions. She relaxed her
‘ reserve. She received my services with
‘ complacency ; and admitted me to a
‘ familiarity, which was soon improved
‘ into

‘ into that tender kind of friendship,
‘ which can subsist only between the dif-
‘ ferent sexes.

‘ As I was walking one evening, by
‘ the side of her camel, conversing with
‘ her on indifferent subjects, she dropped
‘ some expressions of surprize, at my never
‘ having shewn any curiosity to know who
‘ she was, or by what means she had been
‘ brought into her present unhappy state.

‘ This was an opening, which I had
‘ anxiously watched for. I replied, “that
‘ far from being incurious about any
‘ thing which concerned her, my heart
‘ panted with the eagereſt deſire to know
‘ every incident of her life, in hope of
‘ making ſome diſcovery, which might
‘ ſuggeſt the means of removing her unhap-
‘ pineſs ; but that I had been kept ſilent
‘ by reſpect, and fear of awakening that
‘ grief, which I had the pleaſure to ſee
‘ in ſome meaſure beginning to ſubſide.”

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‘ Thanking me for my delicacy, she
‘ said with a reprehensive smile, that her
‘ griefs were too deeply imprinted on her
‘ heart, ever to be forgotten; but though
‘ she could not flatter herself with the
‘ faintest hope, of its being possible for
‘ me to afford her relief, she owed too
‘ much to my humanity to refuse gratify-
‘ ing me, with the information I desired.

‘ Saying this, she paused for a few
‘ minutes, to recover her spirits; then
‘ wiping away a tear, which accompanied
‘ the recollection of her misfortunes, she
‘ began in these words.

SECTION XI.

“ MY name you already know. I was
“ born in the island of Mytilene, of a
“ family which never knew disgrace, be-
“ fore I was unhappily added to it,

“ The fondness of my father viewing,
“ in too favourable a light, the poor en-
“ dowments bestowed upon me by na-
“ ture, he spared no pains to improve
“ them, by every accomplishment of
“ education, flattering himself with the
“ hope, that they might raise me to a
“ more exalted rank in life, by alluring
“ the affection of some of our young
“ nobility, whose own riches could enable
“ them to consult inclination only in the
“ matrimonial choice, as he had not him-
“ self a fortune to give with me, equal to
“ his wishes.

“ We often owe the disappointment of
“ our designs to the very means, upon
“ which

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“ which we build our most sanguine
“ hopes of their success.

“ The power of pleasing, in which
“ nature was thought to have been most
“ liberal to me, was my voice. Fond of
“ music himself, my father omitted no-
“ thing, which could conduce to perfect
“ me in an accomplishment so universally
“ admired. I was instructed in the use
“ of every instrument. I had masters of
“ every country to modulate my voice,
“ and form my judgment, and fame said
“ that their endeavours were not un-
“ successful.

“ Among these masters, the most cele-
“ brated was one, who had been educated
“ in the seraglio of the Khalif of Bag-
“ dat. The care taken in that jealous
“ court, to prevent the ministers of plea-
“ sure from abusing the access, which
“ their occupations necessarily give them
“ to the female sex, prevented also my
“ father's having any apprehension of dan-
“ ger,

“ ger, from the familiarity of his access
 “ to me. I practised with him every
 “ hour, alone, in every dress and every
 “ attitude he thought proper; to try, as
 “ he pretended, which suited best the
 “ powers of my voice.

“ Of all the pleasures of sense, that
 “ which captivates the soul most strongly
 “ is music. By its command over the
 “ passions, it commands the heart, while
 “ it silences reason by its union with senti-
 “ ment.

“ Nor is this command exerted only
 “ over the hearer. The feelings of the
 “ performer advance with his execution,
 “ till he becomes insensibly the slave of
 “ his own art, as I soon unhappily ex-
 “ perienced.

“ The praises, which I received for my
 “ proficiency, warmed my heart with
 “ gratitude to my teacher, to whose inde-
 “ fatigable assiduity I was sensible of my
 “ being

“ being indebted for them; and doubled
 “ my attention to his instructions.

“ In vocal expression, the attitude of
 “ the body naturally accompanies the sen-
 “ timent. My teacher practised this to
 “ an extreme, which I at first thought
 “ ridiculous, and disgusting. But that
 “ disgust soon wore off. I saw him, if I
 “ may use the expression, only with my
 “ ears; and found such pleasure in his
 “ voice, that every thing he did pleased
 “ me.

“ Such a prepossession in his favour
 “ could not long escape his observation.
 “ He perceived it too plainly; and took
 “ an advantage of it, equally base and ab-
 “ surd, to attempt improving my admi-
 “ ration of his voice into a passion for
 “ himself.

“ With this intent, whenever we prac-
 “ tised alone together, he chose none but
 “ the most tender themes of love for his
 “ lessons;

“ lessons; and not content with my
“ accompanying his voice, as before,
“ taught me also to imitate his looks and
“ gestures, in which he proceeded to
“ every endearment of the passion he
“ expressed, till Nature, catching fire,
“ realized the imitation on my heart,
“ and I felt the flames he only acted.

“ My soul had, till now, been so to-
“ tally engrossed by my passion for
“ music, that I had never before felt
“ the impulse of any other. Pleased
“ therefore with sensations I did not un-
“ derstand, I took no pains to conceal
“ them.

“ It is impossible to describe the rage
“ of my father, at a discovery so destruc-
“ tive to his hopes, so fatal to his fond-
“ nefs for me. He directly turned off
“ my teacher in the most opprobrious
“ manner; and loading me with every
“ reproach of ingratitude, degeneracy,
“ and

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“ and folly, interdicted my ever seeing
“ him, with the severest menaces.

“ Nothing shews the natural right of
“ the human soul to liberty so strongly,
“ as the reluctancy with which it bears
“ every semblance of restraint.

“ Though my heart had been warmed
“ by the caresses of my teacher; I was
“ so far from having a confirmed passion
“ for him, that I knew not even what
“ that warmth meant; and would have
“ rejected any direct offer of love from
“ him with indignation. But my pride
“ was now piqued on the opposite side,
“ by this treatment from my father;
“ and I thought it no more than a just
“ assertion of my liberty, to do that
“ which he had unjustly attempted to
“ prevent my doing.

“ My teacher, who had found means
“ to have intelligence of every thing
“ which passed upon the occasion, soon
“ availed

“ availed himself of this spirit of liberty,
“ (should I not rather call it contradic-
“ tion?) which my father had raised in
“ me. He requested a private interview,
“ which in the present state of my mind
“ I made no difficulty of granting ; when
“ pressing his suit with all the ardor of
“ desire, and treating the charge of its
“ absurdity with contempt, as a calumny
“ devised only to deceive my inexpe-
“ rience, he worked up my passions, par-
“ ticularly my resentment, to such an
“ height, that he obtained from me a
“ promise of marriage under the sanction
“ of the most solemn vows,

SECTION XII.

“ A moment’s reflection shewed me all
 “ the misery into which I had plunged
 “ myself; but I was not long permitted
 “ merely to reflect upon it.

“ My promised husband could not con-
 “ ceal his triumph over the contempt
 “ and contumely with which he had been
 “ treated by my father. The consequence
 “ of this indiscretion was equally severe
 “ upon us both. He was thrown into
 “ the common prison, where he suffered
 “ all the indignities and wretchedness of
 “ poverty and guilt among the vilest male-
 “ factors, for having seduced a pupil,
 “ whom he had been entrusted to teach
 “ for hire; while my father, in virtue of
 “ his paternal authority, confined me to
 “ my chamber, in which I was guarded
 “ with the most rigid vigilance, and de-
 “ nied every thing like pleasure, or even
 “ comfort; in order to punish me for my
 “ past

“ past disobedience, and bend me to his
“ purpose of breaking the engagement
“ into which I had entered.

“ But this severity disappointed itself,
“ and only hardened my resolution into
“ obstinacy. Though I saw all the wretch-
“ edness I had to expect, with such a
“ husband, in a life of vagrant poverty,
“ dependance and disgrace, I dreaded still
“ more the scoffs of my acquaintance,
“ and the bad treatment of my family,
“ of which I had already tasted so bit-
“ terly, should I remain among them.

“ I therefore determined to feign a
“ passion which I did not feel, as the
“ only excuse for my folly; and take
“ my fate, however hard, among stran-
“ gers, away from the slights and re-
“ proaches of my friends.

“ I say, a passion which I did not feel.
“ For upon examining my heart, I
“ found in it none of that enthusiasm,
“ that

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“ that madness of love, which is de-
“ scribed as delighting in dangers, and
“ sweetening distress. I found it had
“ been the music I had loved, not the
“ man; and that the connection between
“ them had even lessened that love. I
“ had dreamed of happiness, but I awoke
“ to misery.

“ My obstinacy at length so effectually
“ weaned me from my father’s love, that
“ he cast me off from his care, and aban-
“ doned me to my fate; when the first
“ use I made of my liberty was to fly
“ to my teacher, and perform my pro-
“ mise of marriage, amid all the horrors
“ of his prison.

“ Formed by nature for love, the hu-
“ man heart sympathizes instinctively in
“ the misfortunes too often occasioned by
“ it. This act of mine had such an ap-
“ pearance of the infatuation of that pas-
“ sion, that it moved the pity of all who
“ were not immediately interested in the
“ honour

“ honour of my family ; and my husband
“ found protectors, who soon restored
“ him to liberty.

“ Our situation, however, seemed to be
“ but little amended. We were at liberty
“ to go whither we listed ; but we wanted
“ the means ; and to remaining where we
“ were, could we even have subsisted
“ there, I would have preferred perishing
“ of famine in any other place.

“ At length the cold hand of charity,
“ scantily enabled us to travel to the me-
“ tropolis ; where curiosity to hear a
“ voice, which had had power to invert
“ the laws of nature, for some little time
“ drew such crowds to my husband’s per-
“ formances, that we were relieved from
“ the immediate pressure of poverty.

“ But most dearly did I purchase this
“ relief. The curiosity of the public was
“ not confined to my husband. They
“ must also see the subject of his triumph ;
“ the

“ the fool, who had sacrificed sense to
 “ sound. Every one, who patronized;
 “ assumed a right to visit him. I was
 “ shewn from morning till night, to a
 “ succession of strangers, who broke in
 “ at all hours, without respect or cere-
 “ mony; and gazed at me with as much
 “ indelicacy and insolence, as if I had
 “ been a monster exhibited to fight for
 “ hire.

“ Nor did I suffer from their gazing
 “ only. They insulted me incessantly,
 “ with such ribbald questions, and such
 “ base proposals, as were an outrage upon
 “ the female character: and when I ven-
 “ tured to express disapprobation of their
 “ behaviour, though in the most humble
 “ terms, they treated my tears with ridi-
 “ cule; and threatened to punish me for
 “ such presumptuous affectation, as they
 “ gibingly called it, by withdrawing their
 “ favour from my husband.

“ Much as I was humbled in my own
“ eyes, my spirit was not yet sufficiently
“ subdued to submit to such usage. I
“ complained to my husband, in bitterness
“ of soul; and declared my resolution
“ to shut myself up from the sight of the
“ world, rather than suffer a repetition
“ of it.

“ But I was far from receiving the ap-
“ probation of my conduct, much less
“ the protection I expected from him.
“ He answered me coldly, that my sensi-
“ bilities were too lively, and took unne-
“ cessary offence; that what I complained
“ of was merely a thing of course; that
“ we must humour the caprices of those,
“ by whose favour we lived; and that
“ other women, instead of being offended
“ by the proposals made to me, would
“ have turned them to good advantage,
“ as they were indeed one of the best
“ resources in our way of life.

“ It

“ It is impossible to express what I felt
 “ on his saying this. I thought I had
 “ before seen all the horrors of my situa-
 “ tion; but these words opened new,
 “ of which I had not had the remotest
 “ conception; and betrayed the infa-
 “ mous origin of all his base designs
 “ upon me.

“ As soon as the fullness of my heart
 “ permitted me to speak, I answered him
 “ with a look of the most poignant dis-
 “ dain, “that what he meant by *his* way
 “ of life, I knew not, nor desired to
 “ know; but that *mine*, though a life of
 “ folly and misfortune, had ever been,
 “ and ever should be, a life of virtue and
 “ honour, nor would I add to the dis-
 “ grace I had already brought upon my
 “ family, by departing from those prin-
 “ ciples, to save myself from perishing
 “ of famine, as I justly deserved.”—
 “ Saying which, I retired to my cham-
 “ ber; nor could all his expostulations,

“ menaces, or entreaties, ever prevail
“ upon me to alter my resolution.

“ The curiosity which our strange ad-
“ venture had raised, was no sooner gra-
“ tified, than my husband’s voice lost its
“ attraction; and we sunk back into our
“ former distress; for such a slave was
“ he to the appetites which he could
“ indulge, that he always lavished his
“ acquisitions in the instant; nor ever let
“ the wants of yesterday, warn him to
“ make provision for the morrow.

“ I was now obliged to fly my native
“ country, and enter upon a life of va-
“ grancy, literally for a morsel of bread;
“ without the illusion of hope, or gratifi-
“ cation of passion to silence the reproaches
“ of reason, and divert my thoughts from
“ dwelling upon the wretchedness into
“ which I had plunged myself.

“ The scene was the same wherever we
“ went. Curiosity, for he took care to
VOL. I. E “ make

“ make my folly known, at first procured
 “ us momentary relief, which was as
 “ quickly dissipated; so that we were
 “ always in the extremes of poverty or
 “ profusion.

“ My only shadow of satisfaction was,
 “ that my husband desisted from his base
 “ solicitations; in expectation, as I soon
 “ saw, that the conversation of such com-
 “ pany, of either sex, as I was obliged
 “ to consort with, would in time under-
 “ mine my principles, and reconcile me
 “ to enter willingly into all their ways.

“ But his necessities soon became too
 “ urgent, to permit his waiting for an
 “ effect, of which he thought himself so
 “ secure; and he completed the villainy
 “ of his first seduction, by selling me for
 “ a slave to this merchant.

“ My resentment, as the base wretch
 “ never dared to see me more, fell justly
 “ upon myself; and I resolved to shorten
 “ the

“ the days of my misery gradually, by
“ abstinence, as the least painful way.
“ But your kind consolations have shaken
“ that resolution. In the seraglio of the
“ sultan, for which you say I am de-
“ stined, I shall have tranquillity at least,
“ and that is the nearest approach to hap-
“ piness which I have any right to hope
“ for in this world.”

SECTION XIII.

‘ WHEN the fair slave had finished,
‘ I left her to recover her spirits, which
‘ appeared to be exhausted by the length
‘ and nature of her story ; and upon
‘ considering the circumstances of it, I
‘ thought I had found the object of my
‘ search, in the source of her misfortunes.
“ All the evil in this world, all the errors
“ in the conduct of man,” said I, “ cer-
“ tainly proceed from wrong education.
“ How could she escape the snare, into
“ which she was led by those, whom Na-
“ ture and Reason taught her to look
E 2 “ upon

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“ upon as her safest guides? With what
“ colour of justice could her father blame
“ her, for a conduct which was the neces-
“ sary consequence of his own indiscre-
“ tion? From wrong education certainly
“ proceed all the evils which deform
“ human life.”

• I was pleased with this discovery; and
• plumed myself not a little upon the saga-
• city which had made it. But my exul-
• tation lasted not long.

“ But if her father’s indiscretion,” I
“ continued on farther reflection, “ was
“ the cause of her first error, was his
“ exertion of the sacred right of paternal
“ authority, a just cause for persisting in
“ that error? For aggravating it by di-
“ rect disobedience to his just command?
“ Did this indiscretion of the father, in
“ giving his daughter so wrong an educa-
“ tion—Did the villainy of the husband
“ in basely selling into slavery the victim
“ of his base seduction, proceed from
“ errors

“ errors in their education also?—There
“ is more in this matter than I was aware
“ of. I should be acquainted with every
“ particular, to be able to form a just
“ judgment of the whole.

“ And even, if I knew all these cir-
“ cumstances, is it safe to extend a judg-
“ ment formed upon one event, or one
“ series of events, to the infinitely varied
“ tenor of human life? I must suspend
“ my opinion, till I shall have seen far-
“ ther into the interior principles on which
“ it is conducted. A wrong education
“ is certainly the source of many evils;
“ but it is not equally certain, that it is
“ the source of all.”

“ Though many circumstances in the
“ story of the fair slave had necessarily
“ lowered her in my opinion, they seemed
“ to have a contrary effect upon my heart.
“ To the compassion which I had before
“ felt for her sufferings, was now added
“ a desire to correct the errors from which

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‘ they sprung, a task which I flattered
‘ myself would be as easy as pleasing,
‘ from the candor with which she had con-
‘ fessed them.

‘ Happy in this thought, I entered
‘ abruptly, at our next meeting, into
‘ those particulars, in which I thought
‘ she had been most to blame; and exa-
‘ mining them closely, proved by argu-
‘ ments more conclusive than complaisant,
‘ that all her misfortunes had proceeded
‘ from herself.

‘ Though her looks sufficiently shewed
‘ that this subject was far from being
‘ pleasing to her, she heard me to the
‘ end, without interruption; when instead
‘ of making any reply to the purpose of
‘ what I had been saying, she hummed
‘ a tune for a few minutes, and then
‘ asked me, if I had heard whether the
‘ sultan was fond of music.

‘ So

‘ So contemptuous a repulse embarrassed
‘ me so much, that it was some time be-
‘ fore I could make her any answer. At
‘ length, bowing coldly, I told her, that
‘ the sultan’s taste was one of these secrets
‘ of the seraglio, with which the voice of
‘ fame presumed not to meddle : adding,
‘ with a significant smile, that I had
‘ pleased myself with the hopes of turn-
‘ ing her attention to objects more worthy
‘ of it.

‘ She saw my embarrassment, and seemed
‘ unwilling to encrease it. “ Your inten-
‘ tion,” she answered, “ did not escape
“ my notice ; but I cannot accommodate
“ myself to it. You have drawn so favour-
“ able a picture of the life led in the
“ seraglio, that I have fixed my heart
“ upon entering into it. If the sultan is
“ fond of music, I have no fear but I
“ shall gain his favour. Such a conquest
“ only can compensate for my past mis-
“ fortunes ; and I would attempt it to-
“ morrow, if I were at liberty, and able

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“to follow my own inclinations. Any
“advice therefore, which you can give
“me to accomplish this, I shall receive
“with gratitude. To any other purpose
“it will be in vain for you to ad-
“vise me.”

“So peremptory a declaration effectually silenced me. I bowed my head respectfully, and left her, without saying another word, resolved never to think of her more.

“I was soon sensible, that the only way to fulfil this resolution was to avoid her company. I therefore told the merchant what she had said to me, who thanked me in the warmest terms for the service I had done him, in reconciling her to his views; and acquiesced in my opinion, that it was not necessary for me to continue my visits to her.

“Such a sacrifice to reason was not unattended with pain; nor am I certain
“that

‘ that I could have persisted in my resolution, but that our arrival at Cairo produced such an unexpected change in my situation, that if the remembrance of the fair slave would at times force itself upon me, it soon gave place to other objects.’

‘ How unjust is the pride of speculative wisdom,’ interrupted the emperor. ‘ You were offended at her, because she would not listen to advice she could not follow. What could she think of, but improving a fate, which she could see no possibility of avoiding? In reality, it was you who gave cause of offence. Impracticable advice is only insult to the unfortunate.—’

‘ But stop! The appearance of the morning calls my attention to other matters. I have not leisure to listen to thee longer now. At some other time, my curiosity may possibly require

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‘ the continuation of thy story. In the
‘ mean while, remain at thy liberty among
‘ my attendants; and set thine heart at
‘ ease. Thou art not now among the
‘ Bedouins.’

End of the FIRST BOOK.]

THE
HISTORY
OF
ARSACES,
PRINCE OF BETLIS.

BOOK THE SECOND.

SECTION I.

SOME days passed before Temugin could attend to the continuation of the captive's story; but his curiosity, though restrained, was far from being satisfied. The first evening he could spare from his weightier cares, he commanded his attendance; when he resumed his narrative, in these words.

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‘ From the general tenour of the merchant’s conversation, I had been led to
‘ think his principles strictly just, and
‘ generous to the best of his conception ;
‘ but I soon found that the difference between speculation and practice is equally
‘ great, in every station of life. On the
‘ third day, after our arrival at Cairo, he
‘ fulfilled his professions of friendship,
‘ and gratitude for the service I had done
‘ him, by selling me as a slave to the
‘ grand visier.

‘ I must not, however, in justice to
‘ him, omit a particular circumstance,
‘ which happened on this occasion. When
‘ he was delivering me to the visier, he
‘ told me, as an excuse of his disappointing the hopes of liberty, which he had
‘ always given me, that it had not been
‘ his intention to sell me, but the visier,
‘ who had been pleased with something in
‘ my appearance, offered him so high a
‘ price, that he could not possibly refrain
‘ from accepting it ; “ for you know, he
‘ “ con-

“ concluded, that it is a rule with us,
 “ who live by buying and selling, never
 “ to refuse a good offer.”

‘ This excuse took effect, though not
 ‘ in the manner it was intended. It gave
 ‘ me such a contempt for the man, who
 ‘ made it, that I left him with pleasure,
 ‘ though to continue in slavery.

‘ The accounts which I had received
 ‘ from my father of the perfection, to
 ‘ which every power of human art and
 ‘ genius had been carried in Egypt, had
 ‘ raised my curiosity so high to see the
 ‘ country, that I almost forgot the wretch-
 ‘ ed state, in which I went thither. But
 ‘ how was my expectation disappointed !
 ‘ The ruins of ancient magnificence only
 ‘ made present misery the more remarkable.
 ‘ The rulers prided themselves in brutal
 ‘ violence, in the destruction of works
 ‘ they could not imitate ; and the con-
 ‘ tempt of sciences above their compre-
 ‘ hension. The people, a mixture of that
 ‘ draff

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‘ draff of all nations, who destitute of
‘ principle or sentiment, ramble from their
‘ native homes, and submit to all the in-
‘ sults and oppression of foreign tyranny
‘ for the fordid sake of scraping up wealth,
‘ which they dare not enjoy, had neither
‘ leisure, genius, nor spirit to cultivate
‘ either art or science.

‘ My soul sickened in the contempla-
‘ tion of such degeneracy. I would have
‘ preferred returning to the Bedouins in
‘ the desert, to remaining in a country,
‘ once the pride of nature, had I been
‘ master of myself. There was a possi-
‘ bility at least that those savages might
‘ be reclaimed in time; but here, every
‘ thing was evidently growing worse; nor
‘ could imagination set bounds to their
‘ fall, when the height, from which they
‘ had already fallen, was considered.

‘ But I was soon delivered from the
‘ pain of such contemplations. In less
‘ than a moon, after I was sold to the
‘ vizier,

‘ visier, he was deposed, and strangled;
‘ and all his property confiscated to the
‘ use of the sultan.

‘ In the dissipation, usual on such oc-
‘ casions, it fell to my lot, to be given to
‘ an officer, who was sent the very next
‘ morning to execute a like sentence, on
‘ Almanzor, the brother of the late visier,
‘ who commanded the Egyptian army on
‘ the confines of Biledulgerid, and took
‘ me in his train.

‘ As it was necessary to the success of his
‘ commission, that he should execute it,
‘ before the fate of the late visier should
‘ come to the knowledge of his brother,
‘ to put him on his guard, as his great
‘ abilities and virtues had endeared him so
‘ highly to his troops, that they would, to
‘ a man, have defended his life, with
‘ their own, we traversed the inhospitable
‘ desert of Barca, with the utmost expe-
‘ dition.

SECTION II.

‘ ON the fourth morning of our journey, as we sat upon the bank of a river, to refresh nature after so severe a fatigue, we were surprized at the sight of a troop, which came pouring down upon us, from every side.

‘ The state of universal war, in which we knew the rovers of those deserts live with all mankind, left us no room to doubt of their intentions; at the same time, that their numbers shewed it was in vain to attempt resistance.

‘ In such a situation, there was not a moment to deliberate. I sprung instantly upon my horse, whom I had learned from the Bedouins never to quit; and calling to all those, who preferred death to slavery, to follow me, I plunged into the river: But not above three or four followed

‘ followed my example ; the rest, stupe-
 ‘ fied by the affright, and flood of life,
 ‘ even in its most abject state, not daring
 ‘ to make so desperate an effort to preserve
 ‘ their liberty.

‘ The rapidity of the stream hurried me
 ‘ away, with a violence which soon di-
 ‘ verted my attention from every thing,
 ‘ but the immediate danger of my life.
 ‘ Thrice was I swallowed in the whirl-
 ‘ pools, which foamed among the rocks,
 ‘ that broke the current of the river ; but
 ‘ the strength and spirit of my horse, to
 ‘ whom I clung in the instinctive impulse
 ‘ of self-preservation, after I had lost sense
 ‘ of every thing else, bore me through
 ‘ to the opposite shore.

‘ When I had recovered myself a little,
 ‘ and returned thanks to heaven, for so
 ‘ signal a mercy ; I looked wishfully around
 ‘ for my companions, but all in vain.
 ‘ However as I had been borne by the
 ‘ torrent,

‘ torrent, out of the view of the enemy,
 ‘ I lingered awhile on the bank, to see if
 ‘ they might not happily have gained some
 ‘ other part; till at length losing every
 ‘ shadow of such hope, and growing ap-
 ‘ prehensive, that the rovers might find
 ‘ some safer place to pass the river, and
 ‘ pursue me, I turned about, and plunged
 ‘ into the pathless wilderness, ignorant
 ‘ whither to direct my steps.

‘ I proceeded thus, guided only by de-
 ‘ spair, till the approach of night, when
 ‘ the roaring of the various beasts issuing
 ‘ from their dens in search of prey, warned
 ‘ me to provide for the safety of the present
 ‘ moment, however dreadful the farther
 ‘ prospect, which lay before me. Accord-
 ‘ ingly fastening my horse to the root of
 ‘ a lofty tree, I climbed its summit, and
 ‘ imploring the divine protection, disposed
 ‘ myself to rest among the branches, in
 ‘ the best manner such a situation would
 ‘ admit.

‘ Nature

‘ Nature was so exhausted by the accumulated fatigue, which I had undergone, both in mind and body, that I soon sunk into a profound sleep, in which I lost, for some happy hours, the remembrance of my misfortunes,

‘ At the approach of morning, when my senses were refreshed, and the faculties of my mind had recovered their vigour, I saw a vision, and in the power of imagination beheld the same celestial being, which had appeared to me, in my dream, the morning before I left the house of my father.

“ Selim,” methought he said, regarding me with a look of reprehension, “ from thine own presumptuous folly have arisen thy misfortunes. Let experience teach thee wisdom. Thou art now launched forth into the great ocean of the world. Pursue thy course steadily through it, under the direction of reason ;

“ son; nor while thou shalt merit its pro-
 “ tection by virtue, fear being deserted
 “ by that power, which hath hitherto so
 “ eminently protected thee. Remember,
 “ that though the days of man are num-
 “ bered, and the hour of his death ap-
 “ pointed from the beginning, the man-
 “ ner of that death depends upon himself,
 “ whether in infamy or glory.”—

‘ My vision was broken off, as he spoke
 ‘ these words, by a most tremendous noise,
 ‘ at which I instantly awoke; when
 ‘ the first object I saw was an huge lion,
 ‘ which had just seized upon my horse,
 ‘ and was tearing him piece-meal.

‘ The distress, with which I was affected
 ‘ at this sight, is not to be expressed. The
 ‘ sense of my dreadful situation, deprived
 ‘ thus of my best assistance to traverse
 ‘ those boundless wilds, was heightened by
 ‘ gratitude to the noble creature, which
 ‘ had so lately saved my life. I wept in
 ‘ the weakness of my soul; and was
 ‘ tempted

‘ tempted by despair to precipitate myself
‘ upon him, and either revenge, or share
‘ his fate.

‘ But a recollection of the words, which
‘ I had just heard in my vision, prevented
‘ my being guilty of such rashness. I
‘ considered that the dangers, which made
‘ my present prospect so terrifying, were
‘ yet less immediately terrible, than those
‘ which I had so lately escaped; and
‘ gathering hope from thence, I implored
‘ a continuance of the divine protection,
‘ and resigned myself with humility to the
‘ dispensations of heaven.

‘ This restored my mind to some serenity, and enabled me to consider, which way I should direct my course, as soon as the departure of the lion should permit me to descend from my place of safety; but so many obstacles presented themselves on every side, that reason could find no hope, whereon to form a choice.

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‘ In this perplexity, it occurred to me
‘ at length to pursue the journey, in which
‘ I had been engaged ; and strive to join,
‘ if possible, the army of Almanzor,
‘ though with a different intention from
‘ that with which I had been sent.

‘ No resolution, which was not absolutely impossible, could have been attended with greater difficulties. I had
‘ still an immense tract of this inhospitable
‘ wilderness to traverse. I knew not my
‘ way through it. I knew not even where
‘ the army of Almanzor lay. My only
‘ direction was, that I had heard our
‘ journey pointed to the west ; and I imagined that the traces of so great an
‘ army, would be easily discovered, when
‘ once I should come into an inhabited
‘ country.

‘ On the support of this slender hope,
‘ I set out accordingly, as soon as I descended from the tree, and travelled
‘ through the wilderness for the space of
‘ forty

‘ forty days, without meeting the footstep
‘ of any human creature, or having the
‘ satisfaction of any certainty, that I
‘ was not involving myself deeper in
‘ those inexplicable wilds ; chusing my
‘ steps by day with the most anxious dread
‘ of the serpents, and other venomous
‘ reptiles, which hissed continually on
‘ every side ; and flying at the approach
‘ of night to some tree for safety from the
‘ various beasts, whose roarings tore the
‘ air around me ; while I fed on wild
‘ fruits, with the birds of the air, except
‘ when failing of them I was forced to
‘ feed upon the birds themselves, which
‘ I flew with my bow and arrows.

‘ At length even these resources failed
‘ me. I was several days without meeting
‘ any fruits ; and consequently met very
‘ few birds, which seldom resort any
‘ places, but those in which they find their
‘ food.

‘ My

‘ My spirits losing by degrees the sup-
 ‘ port of hope, sunk with my strength.
 ‘ I thought it in vain to struggle longer
 ‘ with a fate, which seemed inevitable ;
 ‘ and therefore layed me down to wait
 ‘ for death, in whatever shape he should
 ‘ please to attack me.

SECTION III.

‘ THE place I chose for this purpose
 ‘ was of itself sufficient to throw a gloom
 ‘ over the happiest mind. Stupendous
 ‘ ruins, inhabited by every animal, the
 ‘ most fierce and poisonous of the savage
 ‘ race, and surrounded with woods, al-
 ‘ most impervious to them, hung over
 ‘ a rapid stream, broken into numberless
 ‘ cataracts, by the fragments of the build-
 ‘ ings, which had fallen into it.

‘ Imagination wearied itself, in the pre-
 ‘ sent contemplation, in reflection on the
 ‘ former grandeur of this scene of deso-
 ‘ lation,

‘ lation, till I sunk into a kind of slumber.
‘ But the impression made upon my mind,
‘ by such objects, had heightened the
‘ sense of my own misery, too much, to
‘ permit my sleeping long. I soon awoke,
‘ and raising my eyes, what was my
‘ astonishment to see a being, whose ap-
‘ pearance was such as must strike the
‘ most insensible heart with awe. His
‘ stature arose, above the common size of
‘ man. His beard fell bright as burnished
‘ silver down his breast. A loose vesture
‘ shewed his large limbs; and a staff sup-
‘ ported him, as he stooped over me.

‘ My heart almost died within me, at
‘ the sight. I was sensible that I was
‘ awake; and wanted that intrepidity,
‘ with which sleep prepares us to behold
‘ its own creatures. I thought I beheld a
‘ being of another world; and though
‘ despair had steeled me against every com-
‘ mon attack of fear, a sacred horror
‘ seized my whole soul; and for a time
‘ suspended all its faculties.

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‘ Recovering at length the power of
‘ utterance, “Defend me, heaven!” I ex-
‘ claimed, “my life is in thine hand.”—
‘ Then prostrating myself at his feet, “O
‘ “gracious being, I continued, of what-
‘ “soever state, for my soul feels thou art
‘ “above mortality, receive into thy pro-
‘ “tection, the most forlorn of man-
‘ “kind; and direct me to some end of
‘ “the misery, under which I am now
‘ “sinking.”

‘ He saw the distress of my soul, and
‘ reaching his hand with a look of in-
‘ effable benevolence, “Arise, my son!”
‘ said he, “arise; and fear not. You
‘ behold a man, like yourself! A man,
‘ “once as unhappy, as you can possibly
‘ “be, till resignation, and the lenient
‘ “hand of time, in some degree healed
‘ “the wounds of misfortune; and restored
‘ “peace to my heart. Nature, at the
‘ “long disused sight of man, first led me
‘ “toward you; and sympathy now bids
‘ “me

“ me offer you all the consolation and
“ assistance in my power.”

‘ Encouraged by these words, and more
‘ by the manner, in which the venerable
‘ speaker of them addressed me, I arose ;
‘ and bowing my head, in sign of grate-
‘ ful obedience, for I was not yet suffi-
‘ ciently assured to speak, I followed him
‘ toward his habitation, which he shewed
‘ me at some distance from the other
‘ ruins, by the side of the river.

‘ It was a circular building of vast ex-
‘ tent, the walls of which had been so
‘ high, that though a great part of them
‘ was fallen, in several places, that which
‘ remained standing, was still sufficient to
‘ exclude every creature, without wings :
‘ nor could I perceive a place of entrance,
‘ for any other, as he led me all around it.

‘ I was just going to express my sur-
‘ prize at this, when my conductor
F 2 ‘ stooped ;

‘ stooped; and taking a ladder, which
‘ lay concealed at a little distance, he
‘ applied it to a narrow aperture in
‘ the wall, at a considerable height from
‘ the ground, into which, when we had
‘ ascended, he drew the ladder after
‘ him.

‘ I found myself, now, in a large gal-
‘ lery, arched over-head, and supported
‘ by massy pillars, of the most exquisite
‘ workmanship. It looked into an open
‘ space, in the center of the building,
‘ part of which was planted with fruit-
‘ trees of different sorts, and the rest cul-
‘ tivated as a garden, and filled with
‘ various kinds of vegetables.

‘ When I had indulged my curiosity for
‘ some minutes, in gazing at objects so
‘ new to me, we descended into a spacious
‘ apartment, under the gallery; in the
‘ middle of which there arose a fountain,
‘ that filled a bath of the whitest marble;
‘ and

‘ and with its over-flowing watered the
‘ garden, through which it was led in
‘ channels, cut for that purpose. ’

SECTION IV.

‘ AS we advanced to the fountain, we
‘ were met by a young female, the sight
‘ of whom added to the wonder, with
‘ which my soul was filled. She was clad
‘ in a robe of blue silk, which covered
‘ her whole form. A net of the same
‘ colour enclosed her hair, which was
‘ wrapped in woven tresses round her head,
‘ and shone like the plumes of the raven.
‘ Her eyes—’

‘ Hold!’ interrupted Temugin, ‘ I hate
‘ descriptions of beauty. They are al-
‘ ways drawn, by an over-heated imagina-
‘ tion; and only make the partiality of
‘ the painter ridiculous.’

The captive blushed at this rebuke; and looking down abashed for some moments, sighed and resumed his story.

‘ She started at the sight of me; and
‘ gazing with the most eager astonish-
‘ ment, turned her eyes frequently to my
‘ conductor, as if to enquire, who I
‘ could be.

‘ He soon understood her; and smiling
‘ at her surprize, “Receive, my child,”
‘ said he, “a stranger whom heaven hath
“ sent to enliven this solitary scene. Bring
“ your guest a garment to put on, when
“ he comes out of the bath; and then
“ prepare us a repast, from those stores,
“ which the bounty of heaven supplies
“ faster than we can consume; and are
“ always best bestowed upon those who
“ want them most.”

‘ On his saying this, she withdrew;
‘ and returning directly with a vesture,
‘ her

‘ her father and I went into the bath to-
 ‘ gether.

‘ When I had purified and refreshed my-
 ‘ self, after my fatigue, he led me back
 ‘ into the gallery, where she had laid for
 ‘ us, a variety of fruits, some dried in
 ‘ the sun, and others fresh-plucked from
 ‘ the trees, with a vase of living water,
 ‘ just drawn from the fountain.

‘ My host, having thanked heaven for
 ‘ its blessings, reached me some of the
 ‘ fruits ; and encouraged me to eat by
 ‘ his example.

‘ Having satisfied the cravings of na-
 ‘ ture ; and being in some degree re-
 ‘ lieved by his beneficence, from the
 ‘ awe, with which his appearance had
 ‘ struck me, I began to recover my spirits ;
 ‘ and look around me, with less embar-
 ‘ rassment.

“ I congratulate you, my son,” said
 ‘ my host, observing the alteration in my
 ‘ looks, “ on the comfort, which this
 “ scene of desolation has administered to
 “ your distress. Be not ashamed. It
 “ argues not any malevolence of dispo-
 “ sition. Nature receives consolation from
 “ society, even in misery ; from the thought
 “ of not being marked for the sole object
 “ of the wrath of heaven.

“ Distress, great as ever wounded the
 “ human heart, first drove me into these
 “ wilds ; where chance directed my steps
 “ to this place. The view struck me. I
 “ thought such an habitation best suited
 “ to my state ; and that the hand of
 “ heaven had led me to it, to shew me
 “ the vanity of this world, and all its
 “ grandeur.

“ This reflection soothed my heart ;
 “ and time insensibly wore off the edge
 “ of my afflictions, so far, that in a
 “ few

“ few years I could say, I was not un-
“ happy ; nor had a wish to throw away,
“ for any thing this world could afford,
“ beyond what I enjoyed in this solitude.
“ But alas ! even this absence of unhap-
“ piness was too much to last ! I had
“ more to suffer before I was to be re-
“ leased from life.

“ But I see you are fatigued. Even-
“ ing draws on, when we must retire to
“ rest. While day confines the natural
“ lords of these ruins to their caves, I
“ walk abroad, sole viceroy of their em-
“ pire ; but yield the more pleasant even-
“ ing, and cool night to the stronger ;
“ and retire to this place of safety, while
“ they resume their sway.

“ In the morning, when rest shall have
“ refreshed your over-laboured body, and
“ calmed the tumult in your mind, I will
“ lead you through some of the most re-
“ markable places of my dominion ; and
“ afterwards gratify the curiosity, which

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“ I see you feel, by relating the occur-
“ rences of my life ; from a comparison
“ of which, with your own, you can not
“ fail of receiving consolation, and en-
“ couragement to slight the evils of so
“ uncertain a state.

“ Think that you lie this night, among
“ the ruins of a city, once the habita-
“ tion of myriads ; but now for ages
“ lost to human knowledge ; and sleep
“ contented and secure, in just contempt
“ of every thing which can happen, in
“ such a world.”—Saying this, he led me
“ to another apartment in the gallery ; and
“ recommending me to the protection of
“ heaven, left me to my rest.

“ But it was a considerable time, before
“ the working of my mind would permit
“ me to sleep. The change of my state,
“ from the preceding day, appeared too
“ great and sudden to be real. I doubted
“ my senses ; and feared that all was no

• more than a fond illusion of imagination.

• Revolving at length the whole progress of my life, my eyes were opened ;
 • and I saw the clue, with which I had
 • been led by heaven, through the labyrinth. Elevated by this thought, I
 • offered up my soul, in prayer and
 • thanksgiving ; and resigning myself, in
 • humble assurance, to the same protector, soon found the blessing of quiet
 • sleep.

SECTION V.

‘ WHEN I joined my beneficent host,
‘ the next morning, he saw the change in
‘ my looks, and congratulated me upon
‘ it. “ I rejoice, my son,” said he, “ at
“ your having found that comfort, which
“ resignation to the will of heaven, never
“ fails to bring to a virtuous heart. A
“ placid countenance shews a mind at
“ peace. As soon as we shall have taken
“ some food, I will fulfil my promise of
“ shewing you my dominions.”

‘ We then sat down, and eating of
‘ some fruits, which had been laid in rea-
‘ diness for us, “ Had there never been
“ a less innocent banquet made in this
“ place,” said he smiling, “ it would not
“ now be an heap of ruins.”

‘ Then observing, that I still looked
‘ with wonder at every thing around me,
“ I see,” he continued, “ that you are
“ surprized

“ surprized at the structure of my habi-
“ tation. From ruins of the same kind,
“ which I have seen in places, once under
“ the dominion of a people from the
“ regions of the setting sun, called Ro-
“ mans, a name perhaps unknown to you,
“ I judge that this edifice was raised for
“ the exhibition of shews, to entertain the
“ populace, who, after feasting in these
“ galleries, beheld with savage pleasure
“ the fiercest of the brute creation, let
“ loose in yonder open space to indulge
“ their natural antipathies; and to the
“ disgrace of humanity, men still more
“ brutal, entering into deadly combat with
“ them, or with each other, compelled
“ by tyrant force, or for the sordid sake
“ of hire.”

‘ Struck with horror at such an account,
‘ I could not forbear exclaiming in the
‘ indignation of my soul, “ Justly hath
“ such an abandoned people been exter-
“ minated from the face of the earth!
“ Justly

“ Justly hath a place polluted with such
“ crimes, fallen to ruin !”

“ Take care, my son,” he returned ;
“ man must not presume to direct the
“ justice, or trace the wrath of heaven,
“ whose ways are all above his compre-
“ hension. If the most virtuous people
“ were brought to a strict account for
“ their actions, the most sacred places
“ judged by what is done in them, the
“ whole earth would long since have been
“ an uninhabited desert ; a scene of deso-
“ lation and ruin.

“ But let us go, before the heat of the
“ sun becomes too fierce, and take a
“ view of some of the neighbouring parts
“ of these ruins. They will reconcile you
“ to the fate, which invariably attends
“ all the works, all the designs of man.

“ At our return, if your curiosity shall
“ so require, we will beguile the sultry
“ hours

“ hours of noon, in the cool shade of
“ these arches, by a recital of the mis-
“ fortunes which drove me thus from
“ human intercourse.”

“ The scenes, through which he led
“ me, were sufficient to humble human
“ pride; and damp the ardour of am-
“ bition, in their highest flights. Every
“ effort of art to elude oblivion, and
“ guard against the waste of time, was
“ here defeated in the most mortifying
“ manner. Statues, whose remains shewed
“ traces of the most exquisite workman-
“ ship; and columns, which seemed to
“ have been built as firm, as the foun-
“ dations of the earth, lay defaced and
“ tumbled on each other, in heaps of pro-
“ miscuous rubbish.

“ These statues,” said my guide, “ see-
“ ing me struck by the sight, were finished
“ with so much care to perpetuate the
“ name of some noted person; these
“ columns raised with such strength to
“ eternize

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“ eternize the memory of some famous
“ action; but so effectually hath the vain
“ design been defeated, that during a
“ residence of more than five hundred
“ moons among these ruins, never have
“ I met in all my searches a single in-
“ scription, which might direct me to
“ the most distant conjecture, even of the
“ name of a city, on the magnificence of
“ which so much labour and cost were
“ evidently expended; never have I seen
“ the face of an human being, before
“ your’s, except my own immediate com-
“ panions.”

‘ Such reflections were too painful to
‘ be pursued. I turned away from the
‘ objects, which suggested them; and my
‘ conductor seeing how deeply I was af-
‘ fected, discontinued his intended walk,
‘ for that time; and kindly returned with
‘ me, to his habitation; where seating
‘ ourselves, on the verge of the fountain,
‘ I requested him to relate the history of
‘ his life, which he began in these words.

SECTION VI.

‘ Though the recital I am now entering
‘ upon, will lift up the oblivious veil,
‘ which time hath kindly thrown over my
‘ griefs; and the wounds of my heart open
‘ at the recollection of misfortunes too
‘ mighty to admit of redress, yet for thy
‘ sake, O my son, do I willingly under-
‘ take the painful task; as a view of the
‘ evils inevitably incident to humanity,
‘ cannot fail of administering a melan-
‘ choly consolation under your present
‘ distresses, and may convey instruction
‘ for your future conduct; the events
‘ which rule the life of man, in all its
‘ various situations, arising from causes
‘ essentially alike, however they may hap-
‘ pen to differ in circumstances merely
‘ accidental.

‘ But first, as my misfortunes arose im-
‘ mediately from those of my country,
‘ and were in every sense connected with
‘ them,

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‘ them, it will be necessary for me to look
‘ back for a moment to distant ages, in
‘ order to give a just view of the latter,
‘ and of the causes from which they
‘ sprung.

‘ When the intestine divisions, which
‘ had so long distracted the councils of
‘ the mighty city of Carthage, had at
‘ length made that queen of Africa fall a
‘ prey to the ambition of the Romans, the
‘ few who remained of the illustrious house
‘ of Barcas, disdaining to live in subjection
‘ to enemies, whom they had so often
‘ vanquished in the field, and preferring
‘ liberty, under the heaviest inconveni-
‘ cies which nature could support, to all
‘ the luxury and magnificence of their
‘ enslaved country, resolved to leave it,
‘ and seek some happier habitation.

‘ Communicating their design accord-
‘ ingly, to as many as they imagined wil-
‘ ling and worthy to share in it, they all
‘ put themselves under the conduct of
‘ Narbal,

‘ Narbal, nephew to the great Annibal ;
‘ and secretly embarking their families
‘ and wealth in ships provided by him for
‘ the purpose, they set sail in a propitious
‘ hour, committing themselves, and all
‘ their hopes, to the guidance and protection of the gods of their country.

‘ The melancholy cause of their flight
‘ convincing them of the necessity of directing their course to some very distant region, Narbal, whose genius, turned to pursuits of a milder nature than the rest of his illustrious family, had led him into every climate under heaven to promote the commerce of his country, determined to seek a settlement on the island of Serendib, as the place most likely to be safe from the invasion of the Romans, those enemies to human liberty.

‘ Sailing therefore along the coast of Africa, they passed the mouths of the Nile, and landing at Calixene, journied
‘ by

‘ by land from thence to Suez; where
 ‘ Narbal, who was well known, and high
 ‘ in respect, soon procured other ships, in
 ‘ which he pursued his intended voyage;
 ‘ till he came within sight of Dira; when
 ‘ a violent storm of wind arose, which in
 ‘ spite of all the skill and efforts of the
 ‘ mariners, drove him back upon the coast
 ‘ of Saquem. I call places by their pre-
 ‘ sent names, to avoid obscurity.

‘ A wise man turns every event to ad-
 ‘ vantage. Narbal having landed his
 ‘ people, to refresh them after the fatigues
 ‘ of the storm, went to take a view of
 ‘ the country, which he found beautifully
 ‘ blessed by nature, and wanting only
 ‘ proper cultivation to make it afford all
 ‘ the necessaries of life; the few inhabi-
 ‘ tants, who had fled at his approach,
 ‘ living poorly, content with the sponta-
 ‘ neous produce of the earth.

‘ Pleased with this discovery, and con-
 ‘ struing the storm as a direction from
 ‘ heaven,

‘ heaven, he immediately chose a spot,
‘ on the banks of a beautiful river, the
‘ mouth of which formed a spacious har-
‘ bour ; and laid the foundations of a city,
‘ which he named Byrsa, in pious remem-
‘ brance of the revered place of his nati-
‘ vity, whose unhappy fate made him
‘ afraid to adopt the inauspicious name of
‘ Carthage.

‘ Misfortune had softened the minds of
‘ this new people ; and taught them all
‘ those duties of humanity, which are too
‘ often neglected in the high blood
‘ of a prosperous estate. The tenderness
‘ with which they treated such of the na-
‘ tives as happened to fall into their
‘ hands, whom they constantly dismissed
‘ with presents, soon won the love and
‘ confidence of all the neighbouring peo-
‘ ple, so far that they came to them in
‘ crowds, and submitted gladly to an au-
‘ thority, which they saw promoted their
‘ happiness.

‘ With

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‘ With such an accession, their city
‘ soon arose to a considerable degree of
‘ strength and convenience, for the safety
‘ as well as for the necessary purposes of
‘ life; and the inhabitants, encouraged
‘ by success, applied themselves to every
‘ art of industry and genius, to advance
‘ their general interest.

‘ The hills echoed with the voice of
‘ their flocks and herds. The plains and
‘ vallies smiled in the rich livery of har-
‘ vest; while the ships, which had served
‘ the melancholy purpose of their flight,
‘ now brought them the most precious
‘ merchandizes of the East, in return for
‘ their manufactures, and the superfluous
‘ produce of their new country.

SECTION VII.

‘ WHEN all things were settled in
‘ this prosperous course, Narbal, whose
‘ views were too extensive to be confined
‘ to the present moment, assembled his
‘ whole people; and laying before them
‘ the present flourishing state of their
‘ affairs, resigned into their hands the
‘ authority with which they had entrusted
‘ him; advising them to establish some
‘ permanent form of government, which
‘ might give a rational hope of securing
‘ the continuance of their happiness.

‘ But they, who had learned wisdom in
‘ the school of adversity, were not to be
‘ tempted by any allurements of power,
‘ to forego the advantages which they ex-
‘ perience under his care. They not
‘ only refused to accept his resignation,
‘ but in the warmth of their gratitude
‘ and confidence, offered to chuse him
‘ directly for their king.

‘ Though

' Though this far out-went the intention
 ' of Narbal, he thought proper to accede
 ' in appearance to their proposal for the
 ' present, as the method for accomplish-
 ' ing the great design he had in view;
 ' but declined actually receiving the crown,
 ' till he should make some preparations,
 ' which he esteemed necessary for so solemn
 ' a ceremony.

' The opportunities Narbal had had of
 ' comparing the various forms of govern-
 ' ment, in all the various countries thro'
 ' which he had travelled, having enabled
 ' him to discover the defects and advan-
 ' tages in each, he directly applied him-
 ' self with the utmost assiduity and atten-
 ' tion, to select from all, such particular
 ' parts, as when digested into one con-
 ' sistent system, might be most likely to
 ' procure the happiness of the community;
 ' the great end of all government; in the
 ' purity of its original intention.

' When

* When he had compleated his design,
 * he again convened the people, on a
 * mount which arose in the midst of the
 * city; and having offered up sacrifices
 * and prayers to the gods, to be propi-
 * tious to his undertaking, the most vene-
 * rable of the elders informed them of
 * the cause of their being assembled.

* An universal burst of joyful acclama-
 * tion testifying their assent, Narbal ad-
 * vanced to the altar, and waving his
 * hand to demand attention, declared with
 * a determined look and accent, that as
 * he was come there that day, to take
 * upon him the government of the state,
 * at their request, not by his own desire,
 * he expected they would permit him to
 * explain the terms, on which alone it
 * was his invariable resolution to enter
 * upon that equally difficult and impor-
 * tant charge.

* A silence, still as death, following his
 * words, he drew forth from his bosom a
 * VOL. I. G written

‘ written roll, and read aloud to them a
 ‘ particular account of the form of govern-
 ‘ ment which he proposed to establish,
 ‘ desiring them to make their objections
 ‘ to the whole, or any particular part
 ‘ thereof, which they should disapprove;
 ‘ as the sanction of their approbation that
 ‘ day was to be for ever after irrevocable.

SECTION VIII.

‘ IT is not necessary to enter into a
 ‘ minute detail of all the several parts of
 ‘ his system. A short sketch of the lead-
 ‘ ing principles of it, will sufficiently
 ‘ shew its excellence.

‘ Justly sensible that the prosperity of
 ‘ a state is necessarily derived from and
 ‘ dependent on the favour of heaven, he
 ‘ ordained, that all the sacred rites of
 ‘ religion should be constantly performed
 ‘ with piety and proper order; and to
 ‘ enable the persons set apart for the per-
 ‘ formance of them to attend to that
 ‘ duty,

' duty, without interruption from the
 ' anxieties and avocations of domestic
 ' care, and give them that respect in the
 ' eyes of the people, which is indispen-
 ' sibly necessary to add weight and in-
 ' fluence to precepts, he appointed them
 ' a competent support out of the public
 ' revenue, without laying them under
 ' the dangerous necessity of receiving
 ' that support from the voluntary con-
 ' tributions of particulars, who might
 ' either want ability or inclination to give
 ' it, and therefore would hold the de-
 ' mander in disesteem; as a right to
 ' enforce such demand, by compulsive
 ' means, the only remedy in such a situa-
 ' tion, must raise animosities which would
 ' prejudice the people against his pre-
 ' cepts, as well as against himself.

' The miseries which he had invariably
 ' seen the people groan under, in those
 ' countries where the prince knows no
 ' law but his own will, and executes that
 ' law himself, over-balanced every temp-

' tation with which power could assail his
 ' generous heart, and determined him
 ' against a form of government, where
 ' greatness is purchased at so dear a price;
 ' as on the other hand, he had before his
 ' eyes, in the unhappy fate of his native
 ' country, a melancholy proof of the evils
 ' attending those governments, in which
 ' the supreme power is lodged solely in
 ' the collective body of the people, whose
 ' councils are too often dictated by caprice
 ' or intrigue, and whose motions, where
 ' the object is not instantly present, are as
 ' slow and feeble, as their resolutions are
 ' precipitate and rash.

' Between these two extremes, the wis-
 ' dom of Narbal chose a mean, in which
 ' he hoped to avoid the evils incident to
 ' both.

' To give dignity and vigour to the
 ' state, he ordained, that it should be
 ' governed by a king; as he also ordained,
 ' that the crown should descend by regu-
 ' lar

• lar succession in one family, to obviate
 • the fatal consequences which attend the
 • struggles of ambition; being too well
 • read in the human heart, to trust the
 • people with the right of chusing their
 • sovereign on every succession; a right
 • inestimable in its first principle, where
 • reason directs the choice to merit only,
 • but liable to such abuse in the practice,
 • as over-balances every advantage.

• To prevent the abuse of power, when
 • thus rendered hereditary and certain, he
 • appointed limits to the authority of the
 • crown, by laws which ascertained the
 • rights of the people; which laws were
 • to be acknowledged by every successive
 • sovereign, on his ascending the throne;
 • and his observation of them made the
 • condition of the people's obedience.

• To assist the sovereign with their ad-
 • vice, in the arduous affairs of govern-
 • ment, he instituted a council, composed
 • of the elders and chiefs of the Cartha-

' ginian families, who had been the com-
 ' panions of his flight, to whom he joined
 ' a few of the natives, most eminent for
 ' their virtue, to obviate any apprehen-
 ' sion, that their interests might be sacri-
 ' ficed to those of their new fellow-
 ' subjects.

' That this council should not be sub-
 ' ject to the influences of fear or merce-
 ' nary motives, he appointed them several
 ' honourable and important privileges,
 ' and assigned to each a considerable
 ' property out of the public stock, which
 ' privilege and property were to descend
 ' to their posterity, who were to be the
 ' hereditary counsellors of the king, and
 ' guardians of the laws, so long as they
 ' persevered in the principles of private
 ' as well as public virtue, for which they
 ' were raised to such honour ; but on their
 ' falling off from them, or dissipating the
 ' property thus given to secure their inde-
 ' pendance, all those advantages were to
 ' be forfeited, their families reduced to a
 ' private

‘ private rank, and their places filled with
 ‘ persons more worthy of them.

‘ Left this preeminence should tempt
 ‘ this hereditary council to infringe upon
 ‘ the authority of the sovereign, or join
 ‘ him in oppressing the people, above
 ‘ whom they were thus raised, Narbal
 ‘ instituted a second council, inferior in
 ‘ rank, to be chosen annually by the
 ‘ people from among themselves, to watch
 ‘ over their interests, and defeat any at-
 ‘ tempt which might be made either by
 ‘ the sovereign, or the superior council,
 ‘ to exceed the limits respectively ap-
 ‘ pointed to them ; which second council
 ‘ was to be convened at a certain time in
 ‘ every year, to examine past transactions,
 ‘ and concert future measures ; during
 ‘ their attendance on which duties, they
 ‘ were to enjoy the same privileges as the
 ‘ superior council ; but at the end of that
 ‘ attendance, to return to their former
 ‘ private state ; and this short duration of
 ‘ their authority was ordained, that in case

' this representative council, or any of
 ' its members, should deviate from the
 ' sense of their constituents, or betray
 ' their confidence, the people might have
 ' a timely remedy in their power, by cor-
 ' recting their choice; and entrusting
 ' their rights into more faithful hands,
 ' before any evil or error committed by
 ' them should take too deep a root.

' By these two councils, in conjunction
 ' with the sovereign, were to be framed
 ' all future laws for the government of
 ' the state, as well in its interior policy,
 ' as in respect to its connections and inter-
 ' course with other states; which con-
 ' junction was so essential, that the dissent
 ' of the sovereign, or either council, pre-
 ' vented the establishment of the law pro-
 ' posed: and of all laws, the execution
 ' was committed to the king, with a
 ' power of appointing persons proper for
 ' that purpose; but under this restriction,
 ' that no person should be appointed to
 ' execute

“ execute the laws, who was himself known.
 “ to persist in the violation of any law.

“ And lastly, to support the dignity of
 “ the crown, and defray the necessary ex-
 “ pences of the state, he appointed a cer-
 “ tain portion of lands to be cultivated by
 “ such delinquents, as by their crimes
 “ should deserve the loss of liberty ; being
 “ sensible of the absurdity and injustice to
 “ the public, of depriving it of the service
 “ of its members, by punishing any crime,
 “ beside murder, with the death of the
 “ criminal ; and that as all other crimes
 “ proceed ultimately from idleness, their
 “ proper punishment is labour, the appre-
 “ hension of which accumulated as far as
 “ the strength of the criminal could pos-
 “ sibly support, and continued for his life,
 “ must be much more effectual to prevent
 “ the commission of such crimes, than any
 “ other punishment, however severe, but of
 “ short duration ; and till there should be
 “ a sufficient number of such delinquents,
 “ or if happily there never should, then

by the lower ranks of the people for hire, to be paid out of the produce of their labour.

To such a system of government it was impossible to make any objection. The people unanimously testified their approbation of it in the strongest manner; and Narbal, having sworn at the altar to preserve it inviolably, in every respect and instance, to the utmost of his power; and imprecated the vengeance of heaven upon any of his successors who should attempt to subvert it, he received the crown from the hands of the chief priest, amid the universal acclamations and blessings of all present; who in return swore fidelity to him, and obedience to the government, which he planned for their mutual benefit; concluding the sacred solemnity with oblations and prayers to the gods for their blessing and protection.

SECTION IX.

‘ THE same wisdom and public spirit which had dictated this form of government, appeared in every act of Narbal’s reign. He promoted virtue, and punished vice. He secured the civil rights and private property of his subjects, by plain and equitable laws. He established order in the state; and regulated its internal policy. He restrained ostentatious expence, luxury, and excess. He encouraged industry, and application to the useful arts; and his own conduct was the best comment on his laws.

‘ When he had settled these most immediate objects of his care, he extended it to others more remote, though not less important.

‘ He knew that industry is the true parent of strength; and commerce the only inexhaustible fund of wealth to a

' state; but he had learned from the un-
 ' happy fate of Carthage, that even com-
 ' merce may be pursued too far, and that
 ' excess of wealth is weakness. He there-
 ' fore directed the spirit of industry to a
 ' more solid object.

' Of all the ways, in which the com-
 ' bined force of the human mind and
 ' body can be exerted, the most advan-
 ' tageous, and at the same time the most
 ' truly honourable, is agriculture. It
 ' creates that wealth, which commerce
 ' only collects: it supports the arts, by
 ' supporting life for the exercise of them:
 ' it increases population, and provides for
 ' that increase. In a word, as much as
 ' the supply of natural, is more important
 ' than that of artificial wants; as much
 ' as life itself, than the phantastic emolu-
 ' ments of it, by so much is agriculture
 ' superior to every other art: and for this
 ' reason, the first and great aim of Nar-
 ' bal's policy, through the whole course
 ' of his reign, was to improve agriculture,
 ' and

and promote it by every encouragement of interest and honour.

Noë was his care confined within the circle of his own kingdom. He studied the genius and interests of all the neighbouring nations; and laid down rules for the conduct proper to be observed in every possible intercourse with them.

Though the first aim of Narbal's policy was peace, and his first laws calculated for the cultivation of it, he was too well acquainted with human nature to expect that such a blessing could be preserved to his people without the support of force, to repel the attacks of envy, interest, and ambition.

To establish this force therefore, in constant readiness for so necessary a purpose, he ordained that all the Byrsan youth should learn the warlike arts, and appear at certain stated times in every year before him, to shew their expert-
ness

' nefs at them; encouraging emulation
 ' by honorary prizes; but at the same
 ' time taking every possible precaution to
 ' suppress ambition and an indiscriminate
 ' passion for war.

' The wisdom of these institutions soon
 ' appeared. His people were held in
 ' esteem and respect by all the neighbour-
 ' ing nations. They were happy in them-
 ' selves; and their country flourished in
 ' all the blessings of industry and peace;
 ' and as far as human reason could look
 ' forward into time, the firmness of the
 ' basis upon which his happiness was
 ' founded, secured its duration.

' But why do I dwell thus fondly on
 ' the excellencies of a government, which
 ' is now no more? The theme must be
 ' disinteresting to you; but my mind is
 ' so filled with the revered idea, that in
 ' the over-flowing of my heart, I have
 ' insensibly ran into lengths, beyond my
 ' first

first design.'—Saying this he wiped away the tears.—

'Imitate not his prolixity,' interrupted Temugin, 'by a description of grief, as disgusting in your repetition, as it was groundless in him. As well may it be expected to make the sea stand still, as to frame a system of government, which will not change. Every hour produces incidents, which alter its form, as necessarily as the motion of the air moves the face of the waters. But such is the wisdom of speculative legislators. Proceed.'—

The captive bowed his head in submission to a reproof, the force of which he felt; and thus resumed his story.

SECTION X.

‘ HEAVEN,’ continued my host, ‘ rewarded the virtue of Narbal, in the amplest manner. He saw all his pious labours crowned with success; and died full of years, and full of glory, leaving his crown to a son, worthy to succeed him.

‘ The kingdom of Byrsia flourished for many ages, under a long succession of princes of the race of Narbal; who all adhered faithfully to the great principles of his government, every change which became necessary, in the change of times, being regulated by them.

‘ But unhappily the same care was not observed, perhaps was not possible to be observed, in the minuter matters of domestic policy. A long course of prosperity made the Byrsians forget, that their state owed its origin to misfortune; and wealth, accumulated by frugality,

‘ was

‘ was thought to remove the necessity of
‘ that virtue.

‘ The natural wants of man are few,
‘ and easily supplied; but the artificial
‘ are infinite, and insatiable. Not content
‘ with the necessaries of life, he looks
‘ around for the conveniences, from which
‘ to the luxuries the ascent is insensible.

‘ No sooner had the sumptuary laws, so
‘ strictly enjoined by Narbal, began to be
‘ relaxed, than the spirit of commerce,
‘ consequentially, and designedly, restrained
‘ by them, broke through all bounds;
‘ and ransacked every quarter of the earth
‘ to gratify the phantastick demands of
‘ luxury and caprice.

‘ The opportunities, which this opened,
‘ of bartering from one to another, the
‘ various products of all the various na-
‘ tions, with whom they traded, afforded
‘ them such gain, that as their wealth had
‘ made

‘ made them luxurious, so their luxury
 ‘ made them wealthy.

‘ The effects of this were soon felt.
 ‘ The wealth of individuals exceeded that
 ‘ of the state, in every degree of just pro-
 ‘ portion: and their expence exceeded
 ‘ that wealth. A false refinement uni-
 ‘ versally took place of that sublime sim-
 ‘ plicity of sentiment and manners, which
 ‘ had been the honourable characteristic
 ‘ of the Byrsan nation. Their buildings
 ‘ were raised more for ostentation than
 ‘ use. Their garments were fashioned by
 ‘ vanity. Their food was chosen meerly
 ‘ for its expence, however disagreeable
 ‘ to the taste, or destructive to health.
 ‘ Respect was measured by riches. Ho-
 ‘ nours were openly sold; or conferred
 ‘ for services, in their nature most dis-
 ‘ honourable. Virtue and merit were de-
 ‘ pressed by contempt and neglect; while
 ‘ vice found favour, and injudicious mercy
 ‘ encouraged crimes, by disarming justice
 ‘ of its terrors.

‘ In

‘ In a word, the whole business of life
 ‘ was dissipation ; and every thing serious,
 ‘ every regard to decency, moral virtue,
 ‘ and religion, was turned into ridicule.

‘ In order to carry on their commerce
 ‘ to greater advantage, the Byrsans planted
 ‘ colonies, in different parts of the earth,
 ‘ which drained their own country of its
 ‘ most useful inhabitants ; none who were
 ‘ not possessed of considerable wealth, or
 ‘ whose professions did not immediately
 ‘ minister to the gratification of luxury,
 ‘ finding any encouragement, or even
 ‘ being able to live at home, where the
 ‘ fascination of example had made a pro-
 ‘ fusion in expence unavoidable ; and idle-
 ‘ ness and vanity had so far enhanced the
 ‘ price of the indispensable necessities of
 ‘ life, as to involve the industrious poor,
 ‘ whose labour is the natural support, as
 ‘ their numbers make the real strength of
 ‘ a state, in all the miseries of want ; and
 ‘ oblige them to seek subsistence else-
 ‘ where.

‘ Time

Time shewed the consequence of this
 conduct. These colonies, encreasing in
 numbers, in proportion to the depopu-
 lation of their mother country, by such
 emigrations; and flourishing in all the
 arts carried from thence, at length felt
 their own strength; and scorning a de-
 pendance no longer supported by suffi-
 cient power, took the first plausible
 occasion to shake it off, and ever after-
 carried themselves like states allied upon
 equal terms, rather than subjects.

Nor was the exterior polity of the
 Hyrsians, ruled by principles of greater
 wisdom, or virtue. Proud of their
 wealth, they looked with contempt on
 every poorer nation; and blindly mistak-
 ing that wealth for strength, scrupled
 not to invade their rights, as views of
 interest or ambition chanced to tempt
 them.

Such a conduct often necessarily en-
 gaged them in wars, with the neigh-
 bouring

' boursing nations; and gave the sanction
 ' of justice to the attacks, which envy of
 ' their prosperity had before designed
 ' against them; but as these attacks were
 ' always made on some particular occasion,
 ' and singly by the people then aggrieved,
 ' they constantly failed of their effect, and
 ' only encreased by such exertion, the
 ' power they were intended to over-turn.

' In this manner did they proceed for
 ' many ages, flourishing in a false prof-
 ' perity, the cause of which insensibly
 ' undermined its foundation, like a tree,
 ' growing by the side of a river, whose
 ' waters, at the same time, that they make
 ' its branches spread, and cover them with
 ' bloom, wash away the earth from its
 ' roots; till it falls unexpectedly in the
 ' midst of its glory, over-turned by the
 ' slightest gust of wind; and buries every
 ' thing near it, in its ruins.

SECTION XI.

‘ IN the commotions which shook the
‘ earth, when the Arabians, under the
‘ pretext of propagating their religion, im-
‘ piously ravaged and enslaved the greater
‘ part of the world, as if the benign
‘ Father of creation could be pleased with
‘ the misery and desolation of his works,
‘ a body of Egyptians, who had escaped
‘ their fury, settled themselves in a moun-
‘ tainous and barren tract of land, which
‘ lay between the country of the Byrsans,
‘ and the desert, over which they had
‘ fled with their families, in their de-
‘ spair.’—

‘ Appalled at this arraignment of the
‘ religion, in which I had been educated;
‘ of principles, which I had ever been
‘ taught to hold most sacred, all my re-
‘ spect for my host could not prevent my
‘ interrupting him.

‘ Mercy,

‘ Mercy, gracious heaven ! I exclaimed,
 ‘ what do I hear ? Can any duty be more
 ‘ incumbent on man, than to propagate
 ‘ the true religion, even by force, where
 ‘ persuasion fails ? Is not every man, who
 ‘ refuses to receive it, an enemy to God,
 ‘ and as such to be cut off from among
 ‘ men ? And is it not a most impious
 ‘ breach of that duty, a prostitution of
 ‘ benevolence to exert it, toward him ?’

‘ Beware, O my son,’ he replied, with
 ‘ a look and accent of the greatest earnestness,
 ‘ beware of intruding thyself into
 ‘ the councils of heaven ! Has the Supreme Being told you, that only one
 ‘ religion is acceptable to him ? And that
 ‘ the religion, which you profess, is that
 ‘ one ? If you alledge a particular revelation of your religion, do not others
 ‘ rest upon a like foundation ? And doth
 ‘ not every man believe his own to be
 ‘ true ?’

‘ In

' In such a contrariety, by what virtue
 ' have you alone merited the preference
 ' of being right? Or rather, how hath
 ' the place of your birth merited that
 ' preference? For by that was deter-
 ' mined the mode of your religion: And
 ' would a matter of such importance have
 ' been left depending on a circumstance
 ' so mecerly accidental?

' Beside, to allow what you contend
 ' for, that your religion is the only one,
 ' which is right, hath the Deity delegated
 ' to you a power, which he hath not ex-
 ' erced himself, of compelling all men
 ' to think alike? Or, if he intends such
 ' compulsion, doth he want your assistance
 ' to effect it? Can not he, who createth
 ' the mind, mould it as he pleaseth?
 ' And is it not in vain; is it not impious
 ' for man to attempt controuling that
 ' which the Deity hath left free?

' Nor is it less so, to attempt usurping
 ' his vengeance: If he would punish,

‘ were not famine and pestilence, as swords,
 ‘ in his hand? Does not the thunder roar?
 ‘ Do not the foundations of the earth
 ‘ tremble at his word? Universal bene-
 ‘ volence is the sacrifice most acceptable
 ‘ to heaven; nor can any religion be
 ‘ derived from thence, which would en-
 ‘ join a breach of that invariable, eternal
 ‘ duty.’

‘ Then, observing that I was ready to
 ‘ burst with indignation, and eagerness
 ‘ to controvert what he said, ‘ Repress
 ‘ your zeal, my son,’ he continued,
 ‘ softening his voice, and regarding me,
 ‘ with a look of inexpressible tenderness;
 ‘ and examining dispassionately, before you
 ‘ presume to judge. Influenced by the
 ‘ same motives, I once thought as you
 ‘ do now; and held in detestation every
 ‘ religion, but my own; or rather that
 ‘ of the country, in which I had hap-
 ‘ pened to be born, which I had received
 ‘ implicitly, without examination, or
 Vol. I. H proof.

‘ proof. But reason and experience have
‘ since opened my eyes, to my error.

‘ If only one manner of worship could
‘ be acceptable to the Deity, would he not
‘ have made that manner known to all
‘ mankind, at their creation? Would he
‘ not have made the mind conceive it as
‘ invariably, as he made the senses repre-
‘ sent their objects? Would he not have
‘ made it as self-evident, as the founda-
‘ tion of moral virtue, which is received
‘ without variation, by all mankind*.—
‘ If eternal unhappiness was to be the
‘ necessary consequence of differing from
‘ this manner, would it have been con-
‘ sistent, either with his goodness, or his
‘ justice, to have left by so much the
‘ greater part of mankind ignorant of it?
‘ This would have been to create them
‘ on purpose for unhappiness. An im-
‘ putation,

* *Probably, DO, AS YOU WOULD BE DONE BY.*

‘ putation, which is the greatest offence
 ‘ possible for man to offer to God, so far
 ‘ as respects himself only.

‘ Consider, that the mode of worship,
 ‘ which prevails most in the world, is not
 ‘ known to the hundredth, perhaps not
 ‘ to the thousandth part of its inhabi-
 ‘ tants.—Consider also how many ages
 ‘ have passed away, before any of the
 ‘ present modes were known at all; and
 ‘ then you will see the impious absurdity
 ‘ of excluding from mercy, all but the
 ‘ few professors of a particular one among
 ‘ them.

‘ Who then shall dare to call the man,
 ‘ who professes a different mode of wor-
 ‘ ship, an enemy to heaven? And how
 ‘ can it be a duty to attempt propagating
 ‘ by force, an uniformity, which is not
 ‘ prescribed? Should he not rather con-
 ‘ clude from its not having been pre-
 ‘ scribed, that the variety is pleasing; in
 ‘ the same manner as the beauty of sen-

' fible objects arifeth from variation in
 ' their parts. Wherever I hear the praifes
 ' of the Deity fung, my foul fhall accom-
 ' pany them, without objecting to the
 ' manner ; nor will I hazard the profana-
 ' tion of fo facred a duty, by arrogantly
 ' attempting to obtrude any other.

' To prove the neceffary obligation of
 ' mutual benevolence, man was created
 ' in a ftate of indifpenfible dependance
 ' upon the affiftance of others, from the
 ' firft moment of his life. Shall he not,
 ' then, give that affiftance, which he
 ' has received ; and muft continue to re-
 ' ceive? Have all, who have adminiftered
 ' relief to his wants, profefled the fame
 ' religion with him? And would their
 ' profefling another make their affiftance
 ' ineffectual to his relief? Be the religion
 ' of a man what it will, while the morfel
 ' of bread, which I receive from his
 ' hand, yields me wholefome nourifhment,
 ' never will I think myfelf abfolved from,
 ' much lefs interdicted the duty of ad-
 ' miniftering

‘ ministering relief to his wants. No-
 ‘ thing less than an immediate interpe-
 ‘ sition of the Deity, by a total change
 ‘ of natural effects, being sufficient to
 ‘ abrogate a law, made necessary by him,
 ‘ to my nature.

‘ In a word, my son, the worship,
 ‘ truly acceptable to the Deity, is the im-
 ‘ mediate act of the soul, and consists in
 ‘ gratitude for his blessings, and resigna-
 ‘ tion to his will; while I pay that with
 ‘ sincerity of heart, I fear not his taking
 ‘ offence at the posture of my body, or
 ‘ any other—’

‘ Cease!’ interrupted Temugin, ‘ nor
 ‘ waste time in repeating the proofs of
 ‘ principles self-evident. Some mode of
 ‘ worship is necessary; and since no par-
 ‘ ticular one has been universally esta-
 ‘ blished by that power, which alone
 ‘ hath the right, every country is entitled
 ‘ to pursue its own; and every individual
 ‘ obliged to observe it, in his actions,
 H 3 ‘ which

‘which only are subject to human authority.’

SECTION XII.

‘THE Byssians,’ resumed the captive, who at the time of the arrival of these strangers were beginning to deviate from the sage institutions of Narbal, and turn all their attention from agriculture to commerce, gave no obstruction to this new settlement; either not thinking those mountains worth cultivating, or perhaps not being yet so intoxicated by good fortune, as to forget the origin of their own state.

‘For several ages there subsisted but little intercourse between the Byssians and their new neighbours, who had assumed the name of Coptes; the Byssians, in the pride of prosperity, disdaining to take notice of a people struggling with distress; and the Coptes, in the sullen diffidence of that distress, keeping at an

an equal distance from such unfeeling neighbours.

While the Byssians therefore were extending their commerce to the extremities of the earth, and revelling in the luxuries which it produced, the Coptes, precluded by their situation from every foreign intercourse, applied themselves entirely to agriculture, in which the natural disadvantages of their country obliged them to exert all their industry, in order to procure the indispensable necessities of life.

But these disadvantages were more than made amends for by the consequences. They secured them from the pernicious effects of luxury, and all the train of vices and evils which attend on wealth. If they possessed but little, they wanted still less. They were strong in body, and resolute of spirit; and their habitations were filled with a numerous and healthful progeny.

' In the course of time; such unremit-
 ' ted industry changed the face of the coun-
 ' try, and remedied all the unkindnesses
 ' of nature. The hills were covered with
 ' flocks and herds. The song of the hus-
 ' bandman echoed in the vallies; and the
 ' voice of plenty and content was heard
 ' through all the land.

' Such a change at length raised the
 ' envy and avarice of the Byssians, who
 ' were then in the zenith of their glory.
 ' They sent haughtily to the Coptes, to
 ' demand possession of their country, which
 ' they alledged to belong to themselves;
 ' and without even waiting for an answer,
 ' prepared to march a powerful army to
 ' seize by force, that which they were
 ' conscious they had no right to receive
 ' peaceably.

' The Coptes naturally were surprized
 ' at such a demand; and directly sent an
 ' embassy of the most respectable persons
 ' in their state, to shew the injustice of it.

“ They

“ They alledged the length of the time,
 “ during which they had been in undi-
 “ sturbed possession of the country, which
 “ their ancestors had found desolate, and
 “ unpossessed by any inhabitants. That
 “ the Byrsians, far from claiming any
 “ right to it at that time, as they cer-
 “ tainly would have done, had they
 “ thought it belonged to them, took not
 “ the least notice, much less offence at
 “ their settling there ; nor had ever men-
 “ tioned such a claim in any of the trans-
 “ actions which had occasionally passed
 “ between the two nations since. And
 “ finally, that the title of the Coptes to
 “ the country which they inhabited, was
 “ equally good with that of the Byrsians
 “ to theirs ; both people having been
 “ compelled by necessity to fly from their
 “ native homes, and fix themselves in the
 “ same manner, wherever they could find
 “ a place of refuge.”

“ Unanswerable as these arguments were,
 “ they had no force with the Byrsians,

‘ who scarcely deigned to wait till the
 ‘ king should give the ambassadors an
 ‘ audience.

‘ At this unhappy period commences
 ‘ the sad story of my misfortunes, which
 ‘ were so immediately derived from those
 ‘ of my country, that I thought it neces-
 ‘ sary to give this short detail, as an intro-
 ‘ duction to the events of my own life.’

The entrance of an eunuch to acquaint
 Temugin with the arrival of an express
 from the general of one of his armies,
 interrupted the captive at this place. He
 was commanded to withdraw, and wait
 the emperor’s pleasure to hear the con-
 tinuation of his narrative at some other
 time.

End of the SECOND BOOK.

and the view of THE

HISTORY

OF
A R S A C E S,

PRINCE OF BETLIS.

BOOK THE THIRD.

SECTION I.

THE curiosity of Temugin, who had heard something of the destruction of the Byrsan state, and was desirous to be better informed of it, was so highly interested by the captive's story, that he ordered his attendance, the next evening, when he resumed it, as follows.

‘ An illustrious ancestry,’ continued
 Himilco, (so was my venerable host called)
 ‘ is the deepest disgrace to a degenerate
 ‘ offspring ; but where it excites virtuous
 ‘ emulation, it reflects additional lustre
 ‘ upon every new access of honour, sealing
 ‘ it with the sanction of inheritance ; and
 ‘ may be mentioned without incurring the
 ‘ reproach of vanity.

‘ The house of my father derived its
 ‘ origin from Narbal, by his youngest son,
 ‘ Mago ; whose descendants always justi-
 ‘ fied by their merits, the claim which
 ‘ their blood gave them to the first offices
 ‘ in the state.

‘ My father, who beheld with grief
 ‘ every deviation, from the wise institu-
 ‘ tions of his royal progenitor, took par-
 ‘ ticular care to instruct me in the true
 ‘ sense and spirit of them, from a fond
 ‘ hope that heaven would one day offer
 ‘ some favourable opportunity for restoring
 ‘ the government, to the purity and vigour
 ‘ of

' of its first principles ; as he well foresaw,
 ' from its present relaxation, that some
 ' great change must necessarily be near.
 ' But happy for him, he lived not to
 ' see the accomplishment of his presage.

' To prove the excellency of these in-
 ' stitutions, by comparison with those of
 ' other nations ; and to avoid the dan-
 ' gerous influence of such an example, as
 ' the manners of the Byrsan youth, then
 ' exhibited, upon an unexperienced mind,
 ' my father resolved that I should travel
 ' into foreign lands, as soon as reason was
 ' ripened to sufficient strength, to form a
 ' proper judgment upon a personal know-
 ' ledge of the ways of man.

' Having prepared all things for this
 ' purpose, he led me into his garden, on
 ' the evening preceeding the day appointed
 ' for my departure, and seating me beside
 ' him, on the margin of a fountain, ad-
 ' dressed himself to me in these words :
 ' words,

“ words, indelibly written on the tablet
“ of my heart.

“ I see, with delight,” said he, “ my
“ son, the impression, which the precepts
“ of my care have made upon thy mind ;
“ and I fear not but heaven will enable
“ thee to carry them into execution.

“ To facilitate this great end, I send
“ thee to search for wisdom in the world !
“ To read the heart of man, in his
“ actions ; and from them learn to distin-
“ guish between the appearance, and
“ reality of things.

“ Were I to consult the tender impulse
“ of nature, I should keep thee still in my
“ bosom ; but I prefer thy advantage to
“ my own pleasure ; (should I not rather
“ say that thy advantage is my greatest
“ pleasure !) and I part with thee for
“ a time, in assured hope of thy return-
“ ing enriched with wisdom and virtue to
“ support the feeble steps of my old age
“ down

“ down the hill of life; and crown my
 “ urn with the sacred honour of having
 “ begotten a son, worthy to serve his
 “ country.

“ When I say, that my hope of thy
 “ happy return is assured, I would not be
 “ understood to mean, that there are no
 “ dangers in thy way. The floating
 “ sands of the desert, the rage of the
 “ tempest, or the hidden rocks in the
 “ sea, are less dangerous than the allure-
 “ ments, vice lays in the way of the tra-
 “ veller: Allurements, which it requires
 “ the immediate guidance of heaven to
 “ avoid, they offer themselves in such
 “ various shapes, and so speciously simu-
 “ late the very virtues, which they coun-
 “ teract.

“ I will not burthen thy mind with a
 “ repetition of the advice, which it has
 “ been the pleasing task of my life, to
 “ instill into it. The few following hints,
 “ as they relate immediately to the scene,
 “ on

“ on which you are just entering, are all
 “ I shall say at present ; and then com-
 “ mit thy steps to that guidance, which
 “ is never withheld from virtue, if sought
 “ with humble, and ardent supplication.

“ Open thine eyes, and thine ears ;
 “ but bar the door of thy lips. Ask no
 “ questions ! Enter not into arguments.
 “ Concern not yourself in the affairs of
 “ others ; nor reveal your own, where
 “ the importance of the occasion doth not
 “ make such a confidence indispensable.

“ Silence is universally esteemed to be
 “ the consequence of wisdom. It there-
 “ fore engages confidence ; and commands
 “ respect.

“ If you meet any thing, which you
 “ do not directly comprehend, conclude
 “ that the difficulty arises from your own
 “ inattention ; and consider the matter
 “ again, with better care. One doubt,
 “ thus solved by yourself, will open your
 “ mind.

“ mind more, by exercising its powers,
 “ than the solution of many, by another.

“ As for arguing, instead of elucidat-
 “ ing difficulties, it only creates ani-
 “ mosity, and confirms error ; the pride
 “ of man making him more anxious to
 “ support his own opinion, than to in-
 “ vestigate truth. And this was the rea-
 “ son of that mysterious silence enjoined
 “ to his pupils, by one of the wisest of
 “ the western sages.

“ This, my son, is the sum of what
 “ I have to recommend to your atten-
 “ tion. Careful observation of these few
 “ plain rules, will conduct you safely
 “ through the multitudes, whom you
 “ must mix with to acquire knowledge.”
 “ —Saying this, he laid his hand upon
 “ my head ; and praying to heaven to con-
 “ firm the blessings, which he heaped upon
 “ me, dismissed me, with a kiss of peace,
 “ and paternal love.

SECTION II.

* I will not lead you thro' every weary
 * step I measured, nor recount common in-
 * cidents, however interesting to myself at
 * the time. Such recitals, though flat-
 * tering to that consequence in which man
 * is too apt to hold himself, only tire and
 * disgust the hearer.

* Having passed thro' several regions,
 * in all of which, under appearances, and
 * by means utterly contradictory to each
 * other, I saw the same end of present gra-
 * tification universally pursued, with the
 * most anxious and insatiable eagerness,
 * I arrived at length upon the banks of
 * the great river Euphrates, whither I was
 * drawn by an irresistible desire to receive
 * instruction from the mouth of the sage
 * Myrza, the fame of whose wisdom and
 * sanctity had gone forth into all the na-
 * tions of the East.

* The

‘ The sun was just disappearing, as I
‘ approached the habitation of the sage.
‘ It was a grotto, formed by the hand of
‘ Nature, at the foot of an hill, whose
‘ brow hung over the river. He sat in
‘ the entrance, contemplating the smiles
‘ of nature in that placid hour; and ac-
‘ companying in his heart the voice of
‘ gratitude and gladness, which echoed the
‘ adoration of every living thing around.

‘ He no sooner perceived my approach,
‘ than he advanced to meet me, prevent-
‘ ing, by a friendly embrace, those pro-
‘ fessions of reverence, which his appear-
‘ ance commanded equally with his fame.

‘ Though report proclaimed him to
‘ have measured more than twice the usual
‘ life of man, and knowledge was writ-
‘ ten in characters of deepest reflection in
‘ his face, his eye had not lost the pene-
‘ trating fire, nor his limbs the strength
‘ of youth. He was crowned with all the
‘ honours,

‘ honours, but exempt from the infirmities of age.

‘ Having kindly enquired the motive
‘ of my coming, he led me to his habitation, at the entrance of which he resumed his seat, placing me beside him, while my slaves pitched their tents among some lofty trees at a little distance on the bank of the river; then observing that I had not yet overcome the awe with which his presence had struck me, “Knowledge, my son,” said he, with a smile of the most encouraging complacency, “is a gift bestowed with a sparing hand, and to but very few; the utmost abilities of man reaching little farther than to discover his own ignorance. The ambition of it, however, is most laudable; and when properly pursued, seldom fails of a just reward, in the more valuable acquisition of wisdom.

“ If

“ If the observations of my life can
 “ conduce to your acquiring either, I shall
 “ be happy in the communication of
 “ them. At present the departing sun
 “ reminds us of the debt we owe for
 “ the blessings of the finished day.”——
 ‘ Saying this, he turned his face to the
 ‘ west, and falling upon his knees, poured
 ‘ forth his evening song of adoration
 ‘ and praise, in such exalted strains, as
 ‘ rapt my soul in extasy I had never
 ‘ felt before, while I joined instinctively
 ‘ with him.

‘ Having performed this sacred duty,
 ‘ he arose; and turning to me, his eyes
 ‘ still sparkling with rapture, which seemed
 ‘ to raise him above man, “ My son,”
 ‘ said he, “ the subject of thy enquiries
 “ is too extensive, too complex, to be
 “ discussed in a short time. The evening
 “ closeth apace; and nature requireth
 “ rest. To-morrow I will meet thee with
 “ the young day, in yonder citron grove;
 “ and

“ and give thee every information in my
“ power.”

SECTION .III.

‘ SOON as the angel of the morning
‘ had chased away the spirits of darkness
‘ from the face of the earth, I repaired to
‘ the grove, where I waited not long, be-
‘ fore I was joined by the sage.

‘ After some expressions of benevo-
‘ lence and regard, he led me to a bower,
‘ woven by his own hands ; and looking
‘ at the various birds which winged their
‘ way around, “ How different, my son,”
‘ said he, “ are the beauties of this scene,
“ from those which gild the view of even-
“ ing ? Satisfied with the enjoyments of
“ the day, the feathered race then seek
“ their homes, and sing themselves to
“ sleep. Now busy care, awakening with
“ the sun, sends them abroad again to
“ seek the same enjoyments ; secure of
“ finding what they want, because their
“ wants

“ wants are only those of nature, who
 “ has provided amply for all her off-
 “ spring.

“ So happily would the circle of man’s
 “ day wind up, were his desires limited
 “ within the same bounds. I speak of the
 “ desires of reason as well as sense; for
 “ reason and nature never differ. A wish
 “ for something more would not prevent
 “ his enjoyment; nor disappointment
 “ break his rest. Then would he not
 “ complain, that the way to knowledge
 “ is without end; that every new acqui-
 “ sition only opens a new want; but
 “ justly grateful for the portion dispensed
 “ to him, reduce it into practice, instead
 “ of wasting his days in endless search for
 “ more.”

“ Surely,” I returned, “ O my father,
 “ the way to knowledge cannot be with-
 “ out end to him, who sets out early, and
 “ is so happy as to have an instructor ca-
 “ pable of directing his steps?”

“Instruction,” he replied, “is to the
 “mind; what food is to the body. As,
 “in this, repletion counteracts nourish-
 “ment, so objects presented to the mind
 “too suddenly, or in too rapid a suc-
 “cession, by instruction, without allow-
 “ing time to arrange them in due order;
 “investigate their properties, and prove
 “their agreement by comparison, instead
 “of informing only burden reason, and
 “bring not knowledge, but confusion.”

“Wretch that I am ! I exclaimed, sur-
 “prized, and alarmed at what he said,
 “Have I then only wasted my youth in
 “listening to instruction ? Are the pre-
 “cepts of my father no more than a bur-
 “den to my mind ?”

“I mean not so,” answered the sage ;
 “instruction is of the greatest advantage
 “to a youthful mind. It awakens its
 “powers, improves their strength by ex-
 “ercise, and points out the proper objects
 “of their exertion:

“The

“ The precepts of thy father have laid
 “ a foundation for knowledge. To raise
 “ the superstructure must be your own task.
 “ That which is derived only from pre-
 “ cept being no more than a shadow,
 “ which vanishes on attempting to apply
 “ it to use.

“ Mustapha Eber Ibrahim was born in
 “ the city of Bagdat, where he gained
 “ such reputation in his trade of a jew-
 “ eller, that he soon became rich.

“ Encouraged by this success, he re-
 “ solved to breed up his two sons, Kerker
 “ and Hassan, to the same trade; and
 “ that in such a manner, as he flattered
 “ himself would enable them to rise to
 “ greater eminence in it, than had ever
 “ been attained by any former artist.

“ Mustapha was himself utterly un-
 “ learned. Practice had taught him to
 “ know the value of the gems and metals
 “ in which he wrought, and to fashion
 VOL. I. I “ and

“ and arrange them in such forms and
 “ combinations, as should display their
 “ colours, and employ their properties
 “ to most advantage. But all his know-
 “ ledge ended there. When he was asked
 “ the cause of these properties, and why
 “ such forms and arrangements produced
 “ those effects, he was unable to give an
 “ answer satisfactory even to himself,
 “ much less to the enquirer.

“ The pride of wealth being hurt by
 “ consciousness of this ignorance, he de-
 “ termined to save his sons from such dis-
 “ grace, by giving them a liberal educa-
 “ tion before he should begin to teach
 “ them his art.

“ For this purpose, he procured them
 “ the most celebrated masters, in all the
 “ several branches of philosophy, who
 “ executed their charge with the greatest
 “ fidelity, though not with equal success
 “ to their pupils, the turn and powers of
 “ whose

“ whose minds were totally different from
 “ each other.

“ Kerker, the elder, was lively in the
 “ extreme degree. His imagination out-
 “ ran the precepts of his instructor. With-
 “ out waiting to examine farther than the
 “ first glance, he caught at the conclu-
 “ sion, before they could adduce half the
 “ proofs ; and his tongue never wanted
 “ the happiest words to express his con-
 “ ceptions.

“ Hassan, on the contrary, was given
 “ to doubt. He paid no respect to autho-
 “ rity, nor would admit any thing with-
 “ out the clearest proof, in examining
 “ which, he was so cautious and slow,
 “ that he wore out the patience of instruc-
 “ tors, who hesitated not to pronounce
 “ him incapable of learning, and there-
 “ fore counselled his father to apply him
 “ wholly to his trade.

“ While Kerker, consequently, was indulging himself in ranging through the boundless regions of theory, and reasoning upon causes and effects according to the various systems of the philosophy he had studied, Hassan was obliged to confine his thoughts to his labour; and to rest satisfied with that small pittance of knowledge, which he could elicit from experience.

“ Though Mustapha felt this disappointment of his hopes in his younger son with the fondness of a father, he found consolation in the rapid progress made by the elder; and his heart exulted when he heard him display his learning to the crowds whom his fame collected round him.

“ But this exultation lasted not long. The knowledge of Kerker was merely speculative; and by misapplication defeated the end it was designed to obtain. Confiding in it, he had disclaimed to
“ apply

“ apply himself to the gradual practice of
 “ an art, with the principles of which
 “ he was so well acquainted; and think-
 “ ing he could execute whatever he
 “ thought he understood, he affected to
 “ mount at once to that eminence of
 “ skill, which can be attained only by
 “ long and careful application.

“ He could explain the nature of pre-
 “ cious stones, and account for the dif-
 “ ferent degrees of their perfection; but
 “ when they were placed before him, he
 “ was unable to distinguish those degrees,
 “ and often bought the worst instead of
 “ the best. He could describe the effects
 “ produced by the various combinations
 “ of their colours, but he knew not
 “ how to combine them so as to produce
 “ the effects he described.

“ The consequence naturally was, that
 “ his knowledge was turned into ridicule.
 “ He lost his business, and wasted the
 “ wealth earned by his father, in so much

“ that he would have wanted a morsel of
 “ bread in his old age, had he not found
 “ a resource in his younger son; who
 “ thinking for himself, while the elder
 “ read the opinions of others, and labour-
 “ ing while he talked, had drawn real
 “ knowledge from its true source, expe-
 “ rience; and arrived regularly at the
 “ end, which his brother had missed, by
 “ mistaking the effect for the cause, and
 “ beginning where he should have ended.”

“ Surely, my father, said I, observing
 “ that Myrza paused at these words to
 “ leave the application to myself, the
 “ moral of this tale cannot have reference
 “ to my case! To think of arriving at
 “ excellence in manual arts by speculative
 “ instruction, without a regular gradation
 “ of practice, were most absurd. But may
 “ I not dare to doubt if science is within
 “ the same rule! Is there not, for in-
 “ stance, an essential difference between
 “ polity and mechanism? Between know-
 “ ledge

‘ ledge of the interests of nations, and of
‘ the value of precious stones ?’

“ The difference between science and
“ art,” replied the sage, “ so far as they
“ have reference to the uses of life (and
“ to consider them farther were foreign
“ to the present purpose) is confined to
“ their objects, and extends not to their
“ manner of operation.

“ Even in science merely speculative,
“ which terminates in itself, the mind
“ proceeds by as regular a gradation, as
“ the hand in works of art : but because
“ the steps of this gradation are not so
“ immediately seen, the vanity of man
“ overlooks it, and attempts to rise to
“ the summit at a single bound ; and
“ hence proceed most of the errors which
“ defeat his designs.

“ Instruction teaches the mind the use
“ of its own powers ; and points out the
“ directest path to knowledge ; but there

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“ its purpose ends. To acquire that
“ knowledge, the mind must prove the
“ truth of precept by practice. A spe-
“ culative jeweller is not liable to commit
“ greater errors in his profession, than is
“ a speculative king; T

“ Can it be thought less difficult to
“ discover the different characters, and
“ apply their abilities properly, which is
“ the perfection of the art of governing,
“ or polity; than to know the value of
“ jewels, and combine their colours?
“ Why is not government arrived at
“ greater perfection; and the interests of
“ nations more improved? Is it that
“ they will not admit of more improve-
“ ment; and that the nature of man can-
“ not be better governed? By no means.
“ The fault is in the agent, not the sub-
“ ject. The errors of a prince, lifted
“ from the cradle or seraglio to the
“ throne, of a visier chosen meerly from
“ favour, undo in one hour the work of
“ an age, and require the wisdom of an-
“ other

“ other to bring things back to their first
 “ state: and this it is which hath pre-
 “ vented polity from arriving at greater
 “ perfection.”

SECTION IV.

‘ YOU have shewn me, O son of Wis-
 ‘ dom,’ said I, ‘ the error in which I
 ‘ have set out! Shew me also how to
 ‘ correct it.’

“ The wisdom of thy father,” returned
 “ the sage, “ hath sent thee forth into the
 “ world, with a mind well prepared by
 “ instruction to draw from experience that
 “ practical knowledge, which is necessary
 “ to conduct thee safely through life, and
 “ enable thee to fulfil the duties of it;
 “ but his fondness hath thrown obstacles
 “ in thy way, which if not timely re-
 “ moved, may disappoint his hopes.

“ Surrounded thus by a crowd of slaves,
 “ you see only with their eyes; and while

“ they minister to unnecessary convenience;
 “ they debar you from that intercourse
 “ with other people, by which alone ex-
 “ perience in their ways is to be acquired ;
 “ and not by running from place to place,
 “ viewing superficially the face of nature,
 “ the works of art, and studied manners.

“ Before the wealthy, all men wear a
 “ mask. His equals in wealth disguise
 “ their sentiments under an appearance of
 “ politeness; and shew only the bright
 “ side of their country, from emulative
 “ pride. The poor run into the opposite
 “ extreme, vilifying their country to flat-
 “ ter him by the comparison ; and throw
 “ the blame of their misery from them-
 “ selves, in order to excite his compassion
 “ and draw relief from his bounty.

“ To see the world properly, you must
 “ enter into it. You must dismiss your
 “ long train of attendants, lay aside your
 “ purple robes, and mix with the multi-
 “ tude without any mark of distinction to
 “ put

“ put them on their guard. Thus only
 “ can you learn their real sentiments, and
 “ trace the motives of their actions.”

‘ But is there no danger in doing this ?’
 ‘ I returned, hurt at an injunction so hu-
 ‘ miliating to the pride of condition, so
 ‘ contrary to the course of life in which
 ‘ I had been brought up. ‘ Is not a
 ‘ traveller subject to many accidents and
 ‘ disasters, which require care and assist-
 ‘ ance ? Are there not menial offices,
 ‘ which a man cannot so well perform
 ‘ for himself ?’—

“ And who performs them for thy
 “ slave ? ” replied the sage. “ Who
 “ spreads a carpet for the pilgrim in the
 “ wilderness ? or guards the mariner from
 “ the dangers of the sea ?

“ But this is the vanity of man ! Is
 “ thy nature superior to theirs ? And is
 “ not the distinction between you merely
 “ accidental ? Man wants not assistance

“ to perform, for himself, the very few
 “ offices which are really necessary for
 “ him! Nor is one state of life exposed
 “ to greater dangers than another. Be
 “ superior to this vain weakness. The
 “ power which protects and provides for
 “ every living thing, will not neglect you,
 “ while you deserve his care.”

‘ The force of truth is irresistible. I
 ‘ was humbled in my own eyes; and
 ‘ hung down my head abashed before
 ‘ him. After a pause of a few moments,
 ‘ I threw myself at his feet, and em-
 ‘ bracing his knees, ‘ I see, I acknow-
 ‘ ledge my error, said I, and will cor-
 ‘ rect it. I will go directly to Bagdat,
 ‘ and there sell all those slaves, of whose
 ‘ attendance thou hast shewn me the evil;
 ‘ happy if by this obedience I may ap-
 ‘ pear not unworthy of thy farther in-
 ‘ struction; to implore which, I will
 ‘ return to you.’

“ And

“ And why should’st thou sell them ?”
he returned, raising me tenderly from
the ground. “ Why not restore them
to that liberty which is the common
right of all mankind ; tho’ so many
are unjustly deprived of it, that grown
familiar, and in a manner sanctified by
use, the injustice hath almost lost its
native appearance, and passes for a
right.”—

“ Are then all men equal ?” said I,
amazed at what I heard. “ And have
all a right to the same stations in life ?”

“ That all are equal in their nature,”
he replied, “ Reason will infallibly shew
you ; as it will also shew, that they have
an equal right to the same stations, if they
can arrive at them, by just means. But
as there is a subordination indispensibly
necessary for the purposes of life, so
all must remain in those stages of the
ascent, which have fallen to their first
lot, till they rise to higher, by their
own

“ own merit: and this, instead of being
 “ an unjust partiality in the œconomy of
 “ nature, is the best incentive; and re-
 “ ward of virtuous emulation.”

‘ His words instantly dispelled the
 ‘ clouds of prejudice, in which my mind
 ‘ was involved, opening my heart, with
 ‘ delight, to sentiments, which vindicated
 ‘ human nature from such indignity. I
 ‘ set all my slaves at liberty; and was
 ‘ proceeding to divide among them the
 ‘ wealth, which my father had given me,
 ‘ to defray the expences of my journey:
 ‘ but Myrza restrained me.’

“ Hold,” said he. “ Prudence is a
 “ virtue, equally with generosity; and a
 “ man may be unjust to himself, no less
 “ than to another. Give them the means
 “ of supporting life, by honest industry,
 “ or the gift of liberty will be of little
 “ value to them. But make not your-
 “ self poor, to make them unnecessarily
 “ rich.

“ I per-

“ I perceive that the greatest part of
“ the wealth, given to you by your father,
“ consists in precious stones. Reserve these
“ for yourself. They are light of car-
“ riage, and may be easily concealed. Po-
“ verty is subject to many inconveniences;
“ and riches are a blessing, when rightly
“ used. The time may come, when your’s
“ may be necessary to you, if only to
“ relieve the necessities of others. For
“ your slaves, the equipage and imple-
“ ments of luxury, and the utensils of
“ their own servitude, for which you can
“ have no farther use, when you dismiss
“ themselves, will be sufficient, if they
“ apply them properly! If not; they
“ will be too much.

“ Nor; would I counsel you to dismiss
“ all your attendants indiscriminately; and
“ launch into the world absolutely alone :
“ You are yet too inexperienced in its
“ ways, for such an adventurous enter-
“ prize. Is there not among them some
“ one, whom your father hath particu-
“ larly

“ larly recommended to your confidence ?
 “ I have observed one, whose looks be-
 “ speak an heart, honest in itself, and
 “ affectionate to you ; and whose years
 “ promise experience. You have given
 “ him his liberty, in return for which he
 “ will give you his friendship ; and be the
 “ faithful companion of your travels. So
 “ shall you avoid the discomfort of jour-
 “ neying alone ; and enjoy in his conversa-
 “ tion, a pleasure more sublime, than you
 “ could possibly receive from the attend-
 “ ance of a slave.”

“ These cares consuming the rest of the
 “ day, I remained that night the guest of
 “ Myrfa, who, after we had closed the
 “ evening, in the same manner as the pre-
 “ ceding, lodged me in one of the recesses
 “ of his grottoe.

“ It is impossible to express what I felt
 “ on this occasion : My heart at first re-
 “ volted against a change in my situation,
 “ by which I fancied myself dishonoured.

“ But

‘ But a moment’s reflection restored me
 ‘ to reason, and the thought of having
 ‘ made my servants free and happy,
 ‘ compensated well for the want of their
 ‘ service.

SECTION V.

‘ I WOULD have departed the next
 ‘ morning; but Myrza insisted on my
 ‘ tarrying with him for a few days, every
 ‘ hour of which added to my knowledge,
 ‘ as he always turned his conversation to
 ‘ the subjects most instructive; and en-
 ‘ couraged me to declare every doubt,
 ‘ which opposed my assenting to his
 ‘ words.

‘ The wisdom, which he shewed in
 ‘ solving these doubts; and his sagacity
 ‘ in frequently anticipating my declaration
 ‘ of them, as if he saw into my very
 ‘ soul, confirmed me so strongly in the
 ‘ opinion propagated by some of his
 ‘ holding converse with the spiritual be-
 ‘ ings.

ings, who watch over the actions of man,
 that I could not forbear taking occasion;
 one evening, as we sat on the bank of
 the river discoursing on various subjects;
 to ask him how it might be possible to
 obtain the happiness of an intercourse
 with them.

“That there are spiritual beings, my
 son,” said he, after a pause of some
 minutes, as if to consider so difficult a
 subject, “which inhabit the several ele-
 ments of which this world is composed,
 as well as the earth is inhabited by man,
 is an opinion, founded on such testimony
 of the fact, and which hath so univer-
 sally prevailed in every age, and coun-
 try, that it were offering an affront to
 the human mind to suppose it utterly
 without foundation.

“Nor doth its credit depend solely on
 this invariable consent. Reason receives it
 with reverence, as one of those sublime
 probabilities, which though above its
 power

“ power to prove, yet contradict none of
 “ those tests, on which it rests the proof
 “ of matters, incapable of direct demon-
 “ stration.

“ The infinite variety of animated be-
 “ ings, which we behold cover the face of
 “ the earth, so as not to leave one atom of
 “ it uninhabited, gives cause to conclude
 “ that the other elements are peopled also
 “ as fully, by beings to whose organs of
 “ life they are adapted, though impercep-
 “ tible to the grosser senses of man; as
 “ else there would be a void, an useless
 “ part in the works of the Deity; a sup-
 “ position contradicting the sacred, and
 “ self-evident truth, that he doth nothing
 “ in vain.

“ But though reason can thus rest itself
 “ satisfied in the existence of such beings,
 “ its researches into their nature and oc-
 “ cupation meet not with equal success:
 “ Whether they are immortal, and were
 “ all created at the same time? Or if not,
 “ in

“ in what manner the species is continued;
 “ and whether they are immaterial, or
 “ only composed of matter more subtle
 “ than the objects of human sense; being
 “ questions, in the pathless, illimitable
 “ contemplation of which, the mind wanders
 “ at a loss, for any certain point,
 “ whereon to rest belief.

“ As to their occupation, the same universal
 “ opinion, which agrees in their
 “ existence, agrees also in assigning to
 “ them the conduct of man’s actions,
 “ which are supposed to be good or bad,
 “ according to the nature of the spirit,
 “ which directs them. But this opinion,
 “ beside that it is unsupported by other
 “ proof like the former, is attended with
 “ great difficulties, and must for many
 “ reasons be received with great, and most
 “ cautious limitations.

“ If the actions of man are entirely
 “ directed by such beings, what becomes
 “ of his free-agency, on which alone can
 “ depend

“ depend the merit, or demerit of those
“ actions? And are not those beings
“ justly chargeable with them, not he?

“ But this difficulty, and many others
“ attending this opinion, which are so
“ evident that it is unnecessary to repeat
“ them, will vanish, if instead of assign-
“ ing to those beings the direction of
“ man’s actions, we suppose them em-
“ ployed in his protection from the many
“ dangers incident to his nature, and in
“ which his passions every moment en-
“ tangle him. An occupation, by its
“ benevolence better suited to a being of
“ a superior nature.

SECTION VI.

“ IN respect to what you mentioned
 “ of an intercourse between man and these
 “ beings, that also is a question, attended
 “ with many difficulties, and to be most
 “ cautiously received.”

“ How! I exclaimed, astonished and
 “ disappointed at what I heard. Is not
 “ the testimony of so many wise, and
 “ holy men, who assert their having both
 “ seen, and heard them, a sufficient proof
 “ of this intercourse?—”

“ I deny not the reality of the inter-
 “ course,” replied the sage. “ I only
 “ am in doubt concerning the manner of
 “ it; whether perceptibly to the senses,
 “ or only in the power of imagination.

“ If they are immaterial, how can they
 “ have a form to be seen? How can they
 “ emit a voice to be heard? If they are
 “ material,

“ material, how can they appear instantly
“ close to a man, without any appear-
“ ance of gradual approach? How can
“ they melt into air, and disappear totally,
“ in an instant, without gradual departure?
“ And is it not more consonant to reason
“ to suppose, that being *mind* themselves,
“ they hold intercourse only with the
“ mind, and are reflected upon the senses,
“ by the power of imagination, in the
“ same manner as objects in a dream. A
“ supposition, on which that testimony
“ may possibly be found to depend chiefly
“ for credit; so many absurdities and
“ contradictions being supported by it,
“ equally with the most important truths;
“ that without this method of accounting
“ for the deception of the testifier, the
“ mind would reject the latter, because
“ of the former.

“ Not that this supposition is unat-
“ tended with difficulties either. Such a
“ manner of conversing is certainly above
“ our comprehension; but then it con-
“ tradicts

“ contradicts not reason; and if we refuse
 “ assent to every thing, which we cannot
 “ clearly comprehend, our knowledge
 “ will be reduced within very narrow
 “ limits. I know that my hand moves
 “ in obedience to my will; but I know
 “ not how my will operates upon my
 “ hand to effect that motion. We de-
 “ ceive ourselves with vain words. Our
 “ boasted knowledge extends only to facts;
 “ but the manner, in which these are ef-
 “ fected, is hidden from us.”

“ But doth not the admission of this
 “ possibility of deception,” I returned, “ at
 “ the same time weaken, if not over-turn
 “ all historic faith, which depends entirely
 “ upon testimony?”

“ Not in the least,” replied the sage.
 “ Testimony is certainly sufficient proof
 “ of facts, which run in the regular course
 “ of nature. But where this is deviated
 “ from, too much caution can not be
 “ taken in examining the end of that
 “ deviation;

“ deviation; and the competency of the
 “ testimony, by which it is supported.

“ When you tell me, that the city of
 “ Byrsa was founded by Narbal, on the
 “ destruction of Carthage by the Romans,
 “ I hesitate not a moment to give credit
 “ to your words; because people who
 “ lived at the time, and therefore may
 “ be justly supposed to have been ac-
 “ quainted with the fact, have left written
 “ memorials, which have been handed
 “ down regularly from them to us, that
 “ there was such a city as Carthage; and
 “ that it was destroyed by a people called
 “ Romans—because there is nothing out
 “ of the common course of things, in
 “ such a destruction; or in a prince’s
 “ flying from the conquerors, with a
 “ number of the citizens, and founding
 “ a state, in another country; and be-
 “ cause you have sufficient ability, and
 “ may have had sufficient opportunity to
 “ trace the state, in which you were born,
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“ to its origin ; and can have no sufficient
 “ reason to attempt imposing a falsehood
 “ upon my credulity.

“ But should you tell me, that the
 “ flight of Narbal was in consequence of
 “ a spirit’s having appeared to him ; and
 “ commanded him to leave his own coun-
 “ try, and go to that where he founded
 “ his state, I might receive the relation
 “ with respect, because of the virtue of the
 “ relator, and the importance of the end
 “ proposed by such appearance ; but not
 “ without a doubt, when I balance
 “ against his testimony the possibility of
 “ its being only in the power of imagina-
 “ tion, and the irregularity of the fact,
 “ in the common course of nature ; and
 “ also, because it may have been feigned
 “ by him to promote an expedition, on
 “ which he was intent, and doubted the
 “ sufficiency of his own influence to carry
 “ into execution, without the assistance of
 “ such an authority.

“ But

“ But should you add, that on his
 “ arrival at that place, the stones and
 “ trees instantly formed themselves into a
 “ city for the reception of his people, to
 “ save them the delay and labour of
 “ building, I should directly reject the
 “ whole, as a fiction devised since his time,
 “ for the purpose of imposition.

“ Nor is there any danger of this prin-
 “ ciple’s breaking the vigour of the mind,
 “ by inducing a general doubt, if it is
 “ not applied beyond its proper limits.

“ Credulity, and scepticism are the ex-
 “ tremities of a line, in the middle of
 “ which true knowledge is placed.

“ By believing indiscriminately, the
 “ mind lies open to receive the grossest,
 “ and most dangerous errors; by indiscri-
 “ minate doubt, to reject the most im-
 “ portant truths. To find the mean, be-
 “ tween these, is the business of reason,
 “ which it seldom fails in, when per-

“mitted to seek for it, without pre-
“judice.

“I have said, that if we deny every
“thing, which we do not clearly com-
“prehend, our knowledge will be reduced
“within very narrow bounds! Perhaps
“these bounds are already narrower, than
“we are well aware.

“I know that I exist, because I per-
“ceive the operations of my mind. I
“know that I derive not my existence
“from myself, because I know not how
“I came to exist. I therefore know that
“another being, from whom I derive
“my existence, must also exist; and I
“know that this being must exist neces-
“sarily, without deriving existence from
“any other, because an endless succession
“is impossible: And lastly, I know, that
“as all other beings derive their existence
“from this being, so they can exist only
“by him; and therefore that it is their
“duty to obey those laws, which he hath
“thought

“ thought proper to prescribe to them :
 “ but farther than this, I know nothing.

“ And with this portion of knowledge,
 “ I am humbly and gratefully content ;
 “ nor will I misapply the gift, by attempt-
 “ ing to pry farther, satisfied that, little
 “ as it may appear, it is amply sufficient
 “ to conduct me in safety, through the
 “ dangers of this life, to the happiness of
 “ the next.”

“ Though the pleasure, I found in the
 “ conversation of Myrza, encreased every
 “ hour, with the increase of knowledge,
 “ which I derived from it, I forgot not
 “ myself so far, as to engross too much
 “ of that time, which should be a com-
 “ mon benefit to all mankind. At the
 “ end of fifteen days, I departed from
 “ him, and committing myself with hum-
 “ ble resignation to the guidance of heaven,
 “ resumed my travels, in company with
 “ the friend whom he had selected for
 “ me.

SECTION VII.

‘ THE sun had but just began to gild
 ‘ the firmament, with the first beams of
 ‘ day, when I left the grottoe of Myrza.
 ‘ The sound of his voice was still in my
 ‘ ears. I exulted in the proficiency I
 ‘ had made under his instructions; and
 ‘ thought myself superior to every incident
 ‘ of life.

‘ But I had not proceeded far, before
 ‘ this confidence began to cool. I soon
 ‘ felt the fatigue of travelling, in a man-
 ‘ ner to which I was unaccustomed; and
 ‘ the thought of my being alone, for
 ‘ with a single companion I esteemed my-
 ‘ self little better, awoke sensations, in
 ‘ no respect pleasing. I started in affright;
 ‘ and blushed at my own weakness! I
 ‘ reasoned against it; but it eluded my
 ‘ reasons. At length, I compounded the
 ‘ contest. I resolved to continue my jour-
 ‘ ney to Bagdat; and if I should find the
 ‘ incon-

‘ inconveniencies overbalance the ad-
 ‘ vantage, to provide new attendants
 ‘ there.

‘ But my fellow traveller, and friend,
 ‘ saved me from such a weakness. He
 ‘ perceived my uneasiness, and was alarmed
 ‘ for my health ; by limiting his enquiries
 ‘ to which he persuaded me that he had
 ‘ not discovered my disorder to be in my
 ‘ mind, and roused the spirit of pride to
 ‘ conceal my shame.

‘ This employed my thoughts, till the
 ‘ cause of my uneasiness became familiar
 ‘ to me, when it totally vanished ; and I
 ‘ only wondered that I had been uneasy.

‘ On the third day of our journey we
 ‘ joined a numerous caravan of merchants,
 ‘ who had pitched their tents on the bank
 ‘ of the river, to avoid the heat of the
 ‘ sun, which had now mounted high in
 ‘ the heavens.

‘ The habits of Faquirs, which we
 ‘ had assumed by the advice of Myrza,
 ‘ gained us immediate admission into their
 ‘ company, where I was instantly struck
 ‘ with the openness of their behaviour,
 ‘ which seemed to flow directly from na-
 ‘ ture, without design or reserve.

‘ This was entirely new to me. “ I
 ‘ revere thy wisdom, sage Myrza,” said
 ‘ I to myself! “ I now see life, in its
 ‘ genuine colours! How happy am I
 ‘ at being freed from the crowd of atten-
 ‘ dance, who have hitherto stood between
 ‘ me, and mankind?”

‘ But this happiness did not continue
 ‘ long unclouded. They were going to
 ‘ eat; and desired me to taste a morsel of
 ‘ bread with them. I sat down accord-
 ‘ ingly; but started to see a slave seat
 ‘ himself next to me; and my heart re-
 ‘ volted at my being obliged to fetch
 ‘ water from the river for myself to
 ‘ drink.

‘ A very

‘ A very little use, however, reconciled
 ‘ me also to this debasement, as I at first
 ‘ thought it, better than all the instruc-
 ‘ tions of Myrza had been able to do;
 ‘ and convinced me of the vanity of that
 ‘ wisdom, which is acquired only by in-
 ‘ struction..

‘ On being informed that the caravan
 ‘ journied to Bagdat, I desired permission
 ‘ to continue with them; which was
 ‘ readily granted to me; and I resolved
 ‘ to begin the practice of Myrza’s pre-
 ‘ cepts. I accordingly observed with the
 ‘ strictest attention every thing I saw, and
 ‘ heard; and the doubts of one day were
 ‘ generally solved by the next, without
 ‘ my asking any solution of them.

‘ This conduct soon gained me the
 ‘ respect and confidence of the whole
 ‘ company. I was esteemed wise, because
 ‘ I betrayed not my ignorance, by asking
 ‘ information: And every one was eager
 ‘ to communicate his secrets to me, be-

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‘ cause I never enquired into them ; there
‘ being nothing which so effectually coun-
‘ teracts curiosity, as the discovery of it.

‘ The scenes, which this confidence
‘ opened to me, would have amply over-
‘ paid my silence, had it been never so
‘ contrary to my temper. I now saw
‘ things, in colours the most different
‘ from those, in which they had appeared
‘ to me, at my first joining the caravan ;
‘ and found that the same passions rule the
‘ human heart, in every state of life ; even
‘ the coarse jest, the loud laugh of mer-
‘ riment, those reputed characteristics of
‘ vulgar happiness, I could too often
‘ trace to motives the most unhappy ;
‘ and see them joined in and enjoyed only
‘ in proportion to the malignancy of the
‘ allusion.

‘ This general confidence though was
‘ not unattended by its inconveniences.
‘ Every one, who told me his secrets,
‘ taking my silence for approbation, ex-
‘ pected

‘ pected that I should enter into his views ;
 ‘ and was continually obtruding upon me
 ‘ his schemes for their accomplishment, in
 ‘ which he thought himself entitled to my
 ‘ assistance, so far as to look upon my
 ‘ holding the common intercourse of
 ‘ humanity with his adversary, as an
 ‘ act of treachery to him : A situation
 ‘ too embarrassing to have been long
 ‘ supported.

‘ One evening, as I was ruminating
 ‘ upon these inconsistencies, and consider-
 ‘ ing how I should disentangle myself from
 ‘ the consequences of them, one of the
 ‘ principal merchants in the caravan ac-
 ‘ costing me in a friendly manner ;

“ Hassan,” said he, (for I had changed
 ‘ my own name of Himilco, for this, to
 ‘ avoid being traced by any of my late
 ‘ attendants) “ I have observed your de-
 “ meanor, ever since you have come
 “ among us ; and see that your wisdom

“ exceeds your age. I have therefore re-
 “ solved to make a proposal to you,
 “ which will give you the strongest proof
 “ of my esteem.

“ You have been informed that this
 “ caravan journies to Bagdat. It is not
 “ my intention to accompany it, so far.
 “ I shall turn off to-morrow evening to
 “ the country of Faristan, whither some
 “ matters of importance call me; after
 “ I shall have executed which, I propose
 “ continuing my travels, through that
 “ once flourishing country, to the regions,
 “ whose happy people are first blessed
 “ with the sight of the sun, on his emerg-
 “ ing from the ocean, to enlighten the
 “ world.

“ From your habit, I judge, that the
 “ motive of your travelling is to acquire
 “ knowledge. If so! this is the path,
 “ which leads directly to it. The sages
 “ of antiquity never thought their thirst
 “ for

“ for wisdom satisfied, till they came,
 “ and drank at this fountain head.

“ If you chuse to accompany me, in
 “ this journey, we will drink out of the
 “ same cup, as brothers. My people are
 “ sufficient in numbers to defend us from
 “ the dangers of the way; and the pro-
 “ fit, which I shall gain by my merchan-
 “ dize, will enable me to make provision
 “ for the wants of both our future lives.
 “ I shall not attempt to influence your
 “ compliance by any arguments of per-
 “ suasion. You best know the motives
 “ which ought to direct your conduct,
 “ and will be guided by them.”

“ It is impossible to express the emo-
 “ tions, which I felt at this proposal. I
 “ had long had the strongest desire to see
 “ the countries, whither he was going;
 “ but then the length of the way must
 “ detain me much beyond the time pre-
 “ scribed by my father for my return.

‘ The difficulty was most distressing.
 ‘ But after revolving various schemes, I
 ‘ at length thought of one, which ap-
 ‘ peared to reconcile my duty to my in-
 ‘ clination. I resolved to send back my
 ‘ companion to my father, in order to
 ‘ inform him of my intended journey ; and
 ‘ obviate his apprehensions at my pro-
 ‘ tracted absence.

‘ The merchant approving of this de-
 ‘ sign, I proceeded immediately to put it
 ‘ in execution. The parting between
 ‘ my friend and me was most tender. Gra-
 ‘ titude for the restitution of his liberty,
 ‘ had exalted his attachment to me, into
 ‘ the warmest affection. He embraced
 ‘ my knees, he besought me, with many
 ‘ tears, to let him accompany me, in my
 ‘ long, and perilous journey ; and send
 ‘ some other in his place.

“ Who will serve you, in the day ?
 “ Who will watch over you, in the night ? ”
 ‘ said he wringing his hands in anguish of
 ‘ soul.

‘ foul. “ You are not sufficiently inured
“ to hardship ! Your years are too few ;
“ your strength is unequal to the fatigues,
“ into which you are plunging ! Should
“ sickness or disaster befall you, who is to
“ administer relief ? ——”

‘ That power, I answered, in the words
‘ of Myrza, whose goodness is the sup-
‘ port of all his works ; or human care
‘ and relief would be in vain. A sup-
‘ port, in which the piety of my father
‘ will think me safe. Not that I am in-
‘ sensible to your affection. I would gladly
‘ send another, but you know it is not
‘ in my power. Of all, whom I might
‘ have sent, you only remain with me ;
‘ nor would my father give the same
‘ credit to the words of any, as he will
‘ to your’s !’—

‘ He saw that it was in vain to urge me
‘ farther, and would not distress me, with
‘ fruitless solicitation.

‘ My

‘ My mind was so full of the grati-
‘ cation, I promised to my curiosity, in
‘ this journey, that I never attended to
‘ the circumstances in which I undertook
‘ it. Circumstances in reality much more
‘ terrifying, than those which had lately
‘ struck me with so many terrors. I then
‘ had an experienced, a careful, and an
‘ affectionate friend with me. I had
‘ now implicitly entrusted myself to the
‘ faith of people, who were in a great
‘ measure strangers to me. But it was
‘ too late to look back..

SECTION VIII.

‘ ON our entering the empire of Far-
‘ sistan, I was struck with horror, to be-
‘ hold the desolation and havoc which
‘ deformed the face of a country, made
‘ so beautiful by the hand of nature. The
‘ lands were uncultivated! the cities lay
‘ in ruins! and the few wretched people,
‘ destitute of every comfort, and almost
‘ of every necessary of life, wandered from
‘ place to place, to seek the precarious
‘ subsistence of the day.

‘ But this universal misery affected me.
‘ not more than the advantage taken of
‘ it by the merchant, who exacted the
‘ higher prices for his commodities, the
‘ greater he saw necessity for them; ag-
‘ gravating public calamities, by turning
‘ them to private gain.

‘ Nor was my abhorrence of such for-
‘ did inhumanity greater than my sur-
‘ prize,

‘ prize, when I compared it with his
 ‘ conduct on other occasions. ‘ For tho’
 ‘ the habit of taking advantage in his
 ‘ dealing had gained so strong possession
 ‘ of his heart, that he could not refrain,
 ‘ from it on any consideration of circum-
 ‘ stances; in every other instance he was
 ‘ generous and humane; and would rea-
 ‘ dily bestow upon the same person of
 ‘ whose necessities he had taken such cruel
 ‘ advantage, more than he had exacted
 ‘ from him; as, should he come the next
 ‘ moment to purchase any thing else, he
 ‘ could not avoid repeating his exaction
 ‘ of the very money which he had just
 ‘ before given him in charity; and would
 ‘ give him again, if requested, from the
 ‘ same motive.

‘ Our journey through the territories
 ‘ of Faristan afforded no incident worthy
 ‘ of relation. The country continued to
 ‘ exhibit one scene of desolation, more
 ‘ painful to the view than the barren de-
 ‘ sart; the traces of former prosperity
 ‘ aggravated

‘ aggravating the contemplation of pre-
‘ sent misery.

‘ My fellow traveller saw what I felt,
‘ and endeavoured to divert my thoughts
‘ to more pleasing objects. “ When we
“ shall have passed the great river of In-
“ dus,” said he, “ the sight of that coun-
“ try will amply compensate for these,
“ disagreeable scenes. Industry there flou-
“ rishes in the smiles of freedom. Com-
“ merce is encouraged in all its various,
“ branches. An universal plenty covers,
“ the land; and the people are numerous,
“ healthy, and happy.

“ Nor less so were the people of this
“ country once; till ambition overturned
“ the works of art, and marred the blef-
“ sings of nature. The magnificence of
“ the ruins, which still remain, sufficiently
“ prove its former happiness. But among
“ slaves, nothing can flourish. Heaven!
“ that a lust of rule should tempt a man
“ to make his own species miserable.”

‘ Cease!’

‘ Cease !’ interrupted Temugin ; ‘ nor
‘ waste time in repeating the words of a
‘ fool ! The monuments of magnificence,
‘ which he instanced as proofs of the free-
‘ dom and happiness of a people, prove
‘ only their slavery. Were they not the
‘ works of compulsion, raised merely to
‘ gratify the vanity of the rulers, without
‘ regard to the miseries of the people em-
‘ ployed in raising them, to whom they
‘ could be of no advantage ? Men who
‘ are free, labour only for themselves ;
‘ for their own respective use and conve-
‘ nience ; nor are such monuments of
‘ tyrannic ostentation ever raised among
‘ them. But such are the dreams of idle
‘ speculation. Proceed.’

SECTION IX.

‘ THE appearance of the country,
‘ after we had passed the great river,’ re-
sumed the captive, ‘ supported not the
‘ representations of the merchant. He
‘ started; and looking around him with
‘ astonishment and grief, “ Whence can
“ this proceed,” he exclaimed; “ this
“ melancholy change? An hundred
“ moons are scarce elapsed, since I was
“ here last. All things then wore a dif-
“ ferent aspect. The wrath of heaven
“ must have fallen, in famine or pesti-
“ lence, upon the land.”

‘ While he was preparing to exhibit
‘ his merchandize for traffic, in the first
‘ city at which we arrived, I walked forth,
‘ as was my custom, to view the place,
‘ and observe the manners of the people.
‘ But what was my surprize at my return
‘ to the caravanfera in the evening, not
‘ to find any trace of him!

‘ The

‘ The admonition of my father, that
 ‘ moment recurred to my mind. I re-
 ‘ solved to wait for information, from
 ‘ accident, without making any enquiries,
 ‘ for fear of involving myself in whatever
 ‘ misfortune had happened to him.

‘ Accordingly, I seated myself among
 ‘ other strangers, in the gate; where my
 ‘ habit of a Faquir attracting the notice
 ‘ of a Bramin, who was passing by, he
 ‘ kindly invited me to taste a morsel of
 ‘ food, and sleep under his roof that
 ‘ night.

‘ When we had finished our repast,
 “ The composure in which you sat,” said
 ‘ the Bramin, “ persuades me that you
 “ were unacquainted with what had hap-
 “ pened in that caravanfera but a few
 “ hours before.

“ A respectable merchant, who had
 “ trafficked in this unhappy country for
 “ many years, without committing injus-
 “ tice,

“ tice, or suffering injury, being a stran-
“ ger to the tyranny under which we
“ groan at present, had no sooner begun
“ to expose his commodities to sale, this
“ morning, as usual, than he was seized
“ by a set of rapacious intruders, who
“ abusing the false policy, by which they
“ were at first admitted into our country,
“ have fastened themselves upon us, and
“ now prey upon our vitals.

“ In vain did the honest man desire to
“ know the reason of such an outrage;
“ in vain did he call upon heaven and
“ earth for justice! He was dragged
“ away, before a tribunal, where his ac-
“ cusers were his judges; who aggravat-
“ ing their iniquity, by a mockery of the
“ forms of law, confiscated all his mer-
“ chandize to their own use, and threw
“ himself into a loathsome prison, for hav-
“ ing presumed to attempt trafficking in
“ this country without their permission.

“ I see

“ I see you are astonished at such a
“ violation of every principle of justice.
“ I will therefore unfold the rise of this
“ usurpation to you. The hour of rest
“ is yet sufficiently distant, and the reci-
“ tal worthy of your attention ; as hap-
“ pily it may enable you to put your own
“ country on its guard against a like mis-
“ fortune.”

End of the THIRD BOOK.

THE
HISTORY
OF
ARSACES,
PRINCE OF BETLIS.

BOOK THE FOURTH.

SECTION I.

“THE difference in the produce of
“ the different parts of the world,”
“ continued the Bramin, “ hath been justly
“ ascribed to a beneficent design in the
“ Creator, to raise a friendly intercourse
“ between the inhabitants, by laying
“ them under a necessity of applying to
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“ each other for the mutual supply of
 “ their wants.

“ In such an intercourse, this country,
 “ of all under heaven, should naturally
 “ seem entitled to the preeminence, as
 “ having not only every necessary, but
 “ also every convenience, and unhappily,
 “ almost every luxury of life within itself.

“ But alas! it is the use which conse-
 “ crates the blessing. This very plenty
 “ is made to disappoint the end for which
 “ it was given. It blunts the relish of
 “ enjoyment; and deprives the body of
 “ strength and the mind of vigour, by
 “ taking away the necessity of care and
 “ labour. Wanting nothing, we wish not,
 “ we strive not for any thing; but sit in
 “ indolent expectation of that which we
 “ know the revolving season will bring
 “ to us, till we become an easy prey to
 “ those, whose fortunately less favourable
 “ clime and soil oblige them to struggle
 “ with difficulties, and brave dangers, in
 “ order

“ order to procure elsewhere, those things
 “ which Nature has denied to them at
 “ home.

“ Some years since, a company of these
 “ prowlers, who had wandered across
 “ the great ocean, from the remotest re-
 “ gions of the West, landed upon our
 “ coasts, in want and wretchedness. The
 “ hardness of such an undertaking struck
 “ us. We received them with humanity.
 “ We relieved their necessities ; and gave
 “ them the good things of our land, in
 “ exchange for trifles, whose only value
 “ arose from their novelty.

“ Nor did we stop there. Engaged by
 “ the artifices, and respecting the un-
 “ daunted spirits of those our new ac-
 “ quaintances, we permitted them to erect
 “ habitations on our coasts, to which they
 “ might bring their merchandizes in fu-
 “ ture times ; and from this ill-judged
 “ hospitality have proceeded all the mis-
 “ eries which at present overwhelm our
 L 2 “ country,

“ country, and will probably bring it to
“ utter ruin in the end.

“ The accounts which these adven-
“ turers gave of our wealth, and easiness
“ to part with it, at their return home,
“ encouraged others to make the same
“ adventure. They came in such num-
“ bers, as should have alarmed a just sus-
“ picion of their design. They fortified
“ their habitations, under pretext of de-
“ fence against injuries never intended
“ them; but in reality to secure their
“ depredations, and over-awe our sove-
“ reigns, whom they forced to enter into
“ treaty with them, on terms of equality.

“ Since that time, their conduct hath
“ been a continued series of the most atro-
“ cious crimes. Hardier in their nature,
“ they take advantage of our pusillani-
“ mity and weakness; and unrestrained
“ by those obligations, which are the safe-
“ guards of society, the assurance of jus-
“ tice and peace, they break through
“ every

“ every thing which would oppose their
 “ will; and laugh at our credulity, for
 “ having thought them capable of good
 “ faith.

“ They grind the faces of the poor.
 “ The husbandman dares not to taste the
 “ fruits of his own labour; the artificer
 “ to sell the work of his hands, without
 “ their permission; a permission for which
 “ they make the wretches pay so dearly,
 “ that all industry is discouraged, and the
 “ blessings of nature turned into the sever-
 “ est curse, by being thus withheld from
 “ them, though within their reach.

“ Nor are their outrages confined to
 “ the poor. They make our princes pass
 “ under harrows of iron; and lead our
 “ kings into captivity to extort their
 “ wealth from them. How long Heaven,
 “ in its wrath, will suffer them to con-
 “ tinue this flagitious course, I presume
 “ not to divine. But this is evident; that
 “ if there is not a sudden stop put to
 “ their

“ their ravages, this country will be re-
 “ duced to the same state of desolation
 “ with its unhappy neighbour, Farsistan.”

SECTION II.

‘ WHEN I was preparing to depart,
 ‘ the next morning, my host asked me,
 ‘ how long I intended to remain in that
 ‘ city; and with an air of benevolence,
 ‘ offered me every service in his power.
 “ As I never interfere with the concerns
 “ of any man,” said he, “ I flatter my-
 “ self, that I am beloved by the people
 “ of my own nation. Nor am I perse-
 “ cuted by the strangers, because my pro-
 “ fession is a pledge for my poverty. On
 “ the contrary, they affect to shew me
 “ kindness, in order to lighten the charge
 “ of their treating all the natives with
 “ indiscriminate cruelty.”

‘ His saying this, struck me with the
 ‘ thought of soliciting his intercession for
 ‘ my unfortunate fellow-traveller. It was
 ‘ possible

• possible he might be able to serve him;
 • and the attempt was a duty superior to
 • those prudential motives, upon which
 • the admonition of my father, against
 • interfering in the concerns of another,
 • was founded.

• I should be undeserving of your ser-
 • vice, I answered, O venerable father,
 • could I hesitate a moment to accept the
 • offer of it, in an instance which will
 • over-pay to your benevolent heart, any
 • trouble it may give you.

• I left my native country to travel in
 • search of knowledge, and came to this
 • city in company with the unhappy mer-
 • chant, whose misfortune you related to
 • me yester-evening. If you can procure
 • his release from prison, that will be the
 • highest service which can be done to me
 • in this place. As for his wealth! let
 • that remain with the spoilers! His liberty
 • is all I ask.

" This was the first time the Bramin
 " had heard the sound of my voice. He
 " fixed his eyes stedfastly upon me; while
 " I was speaking, and as soon as I had
 " ended, " I equally respect the motive
 " of your travelling," he answered, " and
 " the advances you have made in the at-
 " tainment of it. Wisdom only could
 " have maintained silence, on so interesting
 " an occasion, till a reason of such weight
 " made it necessary for you to speak.

" But, O my son! you over-rate my
 " consequence with these people. They
 " are civil to me, only because I require
 " not any thing from them. But though
 " I may not be able of myself to accom-
 " plish your beneficent purpose, I may
 " possibly find the means of enabling you
 " to effect it: and Heaven this moment
 " inspires the lucky thought.

" The stranger, who rules in this city,
 " has a desire to inform himself in the
 " affairs of all the neighbouring nations;
 " and

“ and spoke to me, not long since, to seek
 “ a person capable of giving him this
 “ information. If you, therefore, can
 “ speak the language of his country, for
 “ he knoweth not any other, and will un-
 “ dertake so iaksome a task, I will this
 “ day lead you to him; and Heaven may
 “ give you an opportunity of serving your
 “ friend, in some favourable moment of
 “ that intercourse, which such an occu-
 “ pation must necessarily give you with
 “ him.”

‘ I was involved in the greatest per-
 • plexity by this proposal. To embrace
 ‘ it must put a stop to my travels, which
 ‘ was contrary to my firmest resolution,
 ‘ as the time drew near, when I had pro-
 ‘ mised to return to my father. If I re-
 ‘ jected it, I gave up the hope of deliver-
 ‘ ing an honest man from unjust oppres-
 ‘ sion and misery. The choice was distress-
 ‘ ing; but I hesitated not long,

‘ I have some little knowledge, I answered, O my father, in the language you mention. I learned it from this unhappy man ; and can never apply it to better purpose, than to serve him in his present distress. The task, it is true, will interrupt my travels ; but it will at the same time bring me nearer to the end of them. In the practice of virtue consists the only true wisdom.

‘ The Bramin applauded my resolution. We went directly to the habitation of the ruler ; in whose anti-chamber we were obliged to wait a considerable time, before we could be admitted to the honour of his presence.

SECTION III.

‘ I had seen something in my native
 ‘ country of the slavery of such attendan-
 ‘ cies; but never had I formed any con-
 ‘ ception of such a scene, as I was now
 ‘ in. Every passion which could agitate,
 ‘ every vice which could deform the
 ‘ heart of man, was painted in the
 ‘ various faces round me; while sus-
 ‘ picion, deceit, envy, cruelty, and avarice
 ‘ dictated every word, they spoke to
 ‘ each other.

‘ Figure to yourself a set of men,
 ‘ thrown together by the incidents of an
 ‘ indigent life, from every class of man-
 ‘ kind, and every country under heaven,
 ‘ acting, or rather preposterously attempt-
 ‘ ing to act the most important parts, and
 ‘ you will have some notion of the com-
 ‘ pany in which I was: a company, to
 ‘ whose characters the powers of descrip-
 ‘ tion are so unequal, that nothing but

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‘ the

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the indisputable proof of facts could
make them pass for other than meer
creatures of imagination.

My soul sickened at the sight; and I
was almost driven to give up my pur-
pose, and depart, for fear of being
infected by such society, when the Bra-
min and I were summoned to our au-
dience.

We found the great man lolling on a
sopha, in all the mimickry of state;
his awkward uneasiness under which,
shewed his inexperience in the reality.
All was bustle, hurry, and confusion.
His orders contradicted each other,
every moment. He knew not what he
ought to approve, and therefore placed
his judgment, in finding fault; as he
shewed his greatness by looking with
contempt at every thing around him.

Our entrance was announced to his
excellency, by a servant, on a bent
knee;

' knee; but, though he was at that very
 ' instant looking at us, he continued to
 ' adjust his dress, for some time, before
 ' he condescended to honour us with the
 ' least notice; till at length, throwing
 ' his eye toward us as by chance, he
 ' superciliously asked the Bramin the oc-
 ' casion of his visit.

" Son of good fortune!" answered the
 ' Bramin, " I have found such a person, as
 " you desired me to seek for you, the
 " last time I had the honour of paying
 " my duty to your greatness; and have
 " brought him to receive your com-
 " mands."

' His excellency, rolling his eye back
 ' and forward from the Bramin to me,
 ' for some moments, with a suspicious
 ' stare, at length demanded to know,
 ' what person he meant.

" A person," answered the Bramin,
 " who hath travelled through all the
 " neigh-

“ neighbouring nations, and is acquainted
 “ with their customs and manners, in
 “ which you expressed a desire to be in-
 “ structed.”

“ Not I indeed !” replied his excellency,
 “ with a look and accent of offended im-
 “ portance. “ You quite misunderstood me.
 “ I want no instruction in such matters.
 “ What I spoke to you about, was a
 “ secretary for foreign affairs, who under-
 “ stands the languages of those countries,
 “ and can write my orders to the sove-
 “ reigns of them ; as I have not time to
 “ throw away, on learning their jargon
 “ myself. I regard not their customs ;
 “ and will teach them good manners, if
 “ they misbehave themselves to me.”

“ The mistake,” returned the Bramin,
 “ is not material. My friend is qualified
 “ for either office. His capacity will be
 “ found on trial ; and I will vouch for
 “ his fidelity.”

‘ Such

Such a recommendation had the necessary weight, with his excellency, who knew the integrity of the Bramin, and had kept his eye, fixed upon me, all the time he spoke, as if he would read my soul. He graciously nodded his assent, and saying that I might come, as soon as I pleased, my conductor and I withdrew, rejoiced at the happy omen of having so easily succeeded in the first part of our design.

SECTION IV.

“ ON our return to the habitation of
 “ the Bramin, “ As you are now entering
 “ into a scene of life,” said he, “ utterly
 “ new to you ; it may not be unnecessary
 “ to give you a sketch of the character
 “ of the man, to whom you are going,
 “ in order to direct your conduct toward
 “ him.

“ The manner, in which he bears his
 “ present elevation, shews that it is not
 “ natural to him. But you must not
 “ form your judgment of him, in other
 “ respects, from thence ; few men ex-
 “ hibiting a stronger proof, that superior
 “ talents are far from being the sole pro-
 “ perty of the superior ranks of life.

“ Born in the lowest class of mankind,
 “ and bred to one of the meanest pro-
 “ fessions, by which industrious poverty
 “ strives to earn a scanty subsistence, he
 “ has

“ has raised himself by the meer force of
“ his own genius, to his present height
“ of affluence, and power; a rise, it is
“ true, to which his principles have con-
“ tributed little less than his abilities, as
“ they never restrained him from any
“ thing, by which he could propose ad-
“ vantage: A qualification, common to
“ almost all the men, who have been
“ honoured by the world, with the name
“ of *Great*.

“ It is but justice though to acknow-
“ ledge that the actions by which he has
“ thus raised himself, have, in their first
“ effect, merited from his superiors (for
“ even he, high as he holds himself here,
“ is no more than the servant of subjects
“ in his native country) all the rewards,
“ which they have bestowed upon him.

“ But if we strip those actions of the
“ blazonry of success, and measure them
“ by the rules of public, as well as pri-
“ vate virtue; we shall find, that by
“ blacken-

“ blackening ambition with perfidy; cor-
 “ rupting private fidelity, and staining
 “ victory with murder, he has exceeded
 “ in the most nefarious iniquity all the
 “ ravagers of the earth, who have built
 “ their greatness upon the miseries of
 “ mankind; as the consequence will
 “ prove, that instead of giving sanction
 “ to such crimes, by loading him with
 “ honours, his superiors should have
 “ punished him with the most ignominious
 “ death, to have given permanency to the
 “ very advantages, he has acquired for
 “ them; the divine vengeance, though
 “ hitherto suspended, being now ready to
 “ burst in thunder on their heads for this
 “ injustice.

“ His associates, emulous of his success
 “ in amassing wealth, but incapable of
 “ effecting it, as he had, by actions at
 “ the same time serviceable to their su-
 “ periors, have imitated him in the most
 “ flagitious parts of his conduct, and laid
 “ the axe to the root of the advantages,
 “ which

“ which they drew from this country, by
 “ robbing the wretched natives of the
 “ means of supplying it ; for who will
 “ work, when he knows that the fruit
 “ of his labour will be ravished from
 “ him ?

“ Of this, indeed, they seem to be
 “ sensible themselves. But instead of be-
 “ ing moved by that sense to change their
 “ measures, they have only changed the
 “ object of them.

“ Seeing that the ruined land can no
 “ longer supply matter for their rapacity;
 “ they have turned it against their supe-
 “ riors, whom they have brought to the
 “ verge of equal ruin, by a peculation of
 “ the wealth, entrusted to their care ;
 “ lavishing it, in erecting fortresses to
 “ guard against impossible assaults ; and
 “ maintaining forces to fight against ene-
 “ mies, who do not exist, that they may
 “ have an opportunity of appointing each
 “ other to all the lucrative employments,
 “ which

“ which attend armies, and make war at
 “ present, little less ruinous to the victors,
 “ than to the vanquished.

“ Thus one is to supply materials,
 “ another to superintend the building;
 “ this to provide food, that cloathing for
 “ the men; and so on, arms, ammuni-
 “ tion, every article possible to be wanted
 “ by an army, for all which, as they are
 “ to pay themselves, they contract in the
 “ greatest quantities, and at the highest
 “ rates, which mutual connivance can
 “ venture to impose upon common sense;
 “ at the same time, that not one of them
 “ hath the remotest intention of fulfilling
 “ such contracts, either in the quantity,
 “ or quality of the things to be provided;
 “ but suffer the miserable bands of rob-
 “ bers, which they call armies, to struggle
 “ with all the severities of climates not
 “ natural to them, and the want of every
 “ convenience, and almost necessary of
 “ life, if they can not plunder them from
 “ the defenceless, and therefore more mis-
 “ rable

“ rable natives: Iniquities, which how-
 “ ever glaring, they practise without fear
 “ of punishment, the wealth, they ac-
 “ quire by them, enabling them to laugh
 “ at justice, and hold the laws in defiance;
 “ in their own country, whither they re-
 “ turn to enjoy it; and make room for
 “ another hungry set to pursue their steps.

“ This faithful representation will prove
 “ the truth of what I have said before,
 “ that if a sudden stop be not put to these
 “ ravagers, our country must be ruined.
 “ In fact, they will soon be forced to stop
 “ of necessity. Their iniquity hath un-
 “ dermined itself; and heaven, by a
 “ signal instance of its justice, hath made
 “ them avenge our wrongs, upon their
 “ own heads. Whether we may be able
 “ to survive the shock, and enjoy the
 “ fruits of that vengeance though, is
 “ more than I can foresee, so deep are the
 “ wounds, with which they have pierced
 “ our hearts.”

SECTION V.

‘ ON my repairing next morning to the
 ‘ pavillion of the chief, I found him in
 ‘ conversation with a few of his associates,
 ‘ on some subject which seemed to embar-
 ‘ rass them not a little.

‘ As soon as he cast his eyes upon me,
 ‘ he turned short to the others, and told
 ‘ them, with an exulting look, that I
 ‘ could give them the information they
 ‘ wanted, having travelled lately through
 ‘ all those countries.

‘ One of his associates having presumed
 ‘ to express some doubt, whether it was
 ‘ safe to entrust a stranger with a matter
 ‘ of such moment, the sagacity of the
 ‘ chief took instant offence. He asked,
 ‘ with a supercilious air, “When he had
 “ been known to be mistaken in any
 “ man?” Adding, that he had taken
 ‘ me for his secretary, on the recommen-
 ‘ dation

* dation of a man of honour: not that I
 * wanted any better voucher, to a man
 * of discernment, than the honesty written
 * in my countenance.

* The other believing, or at least not
 * thinking it proper to disagree with him,
 * asked me if there was not a prospect
 * of the greatest plenty, in those countries,
 * at the approaching harvest; and on my
 * bowing in affirmation, added a number
 * of questions, concerning the prices of
 * the different necessaries of life in diffe-
 * rent places.

* It instantly occurred to me, that this
 * was such an opportunity as I sought,
 * to serve my fellow-traveller. I answered
 * therefore, that these were matters with
 * which I was utterly unacquainted, hav-
 * ing never bought any thing but what
 * was immediately necessary for my own
 * use, the purpose of my travelling having
 * been only to indulge curiosity, and ac-
 * quire knowledge: but that I knew a

‘ person, who had followed the professor
 ‘ of a merchant for many years, and was
 ‘ able to give him every information he
 ‘ could wish, in every branch of com-
 ‘ merce; and on informing him whom I
 ‘ meant, gave so high a character of the
 ‘ merchant’s judgment and probity, that
 ‘ they all seemed inclined to employ him.

‘ But there was a difficulty in my way,
 ‘ which I plainly perceived would defeat
 ‘ my design, if it could not be removed.
 ‘ This was his merchandize, which they
 ‘ had seized, and thought he would ex-
 ‘ pect to have restored to him, before he
 ‘ would enter into their service: a sacri-
 ‘ fice to justice which they could not pre-
 ‘ vail upon themselves to make, to any
 ‘ uncertain prospect.

‘ On their expressing doubts, therefore,
 ‘ of the danger of placing confidence in a
 ‘ man utterly unknown to them, I replied,
 ‘ that they had a security for his honesty
 ‘ in their own hands: that they might re-
 ‘ tain

tain his merchandize till he should execute their commission; and then return it, or not, as he should deserve; by which means they would make it his interest to be honest to them.

This thought settled the whole affair. The chief instantly approved of my proposal, paying a compliment to my judgment, in making interest the best motive to honesty; and I was directly sent to conduct the merchant to them.

SECTION VI.

I cannot express what I felt, on entering the dungeon where the unhappy man was confined, even without any charge of a real crime. Dark, damp, and noisome, it seemed to have been designed to render the horrors of imprisonment still more horrible.

In the indignation of my soul at such tyranny, I could not forbear exclaiming

‘ in my native language, “ What a reproach is it to human nature, that the men, who have themselves been subject to the heavy hand of power, are the least proper to be entrusted with it over others !”

‘ As soon as he heard my well-known voice, he raised his head from the ground, on which he lay, loaded with chains ; and looking eagerly at me, “ Oh, my friend,” said he, “ have my misfortunes overwhelmed you also ? Is your innocence ruined, merely for having known such a wretch as me ? And yet, what is my guilt ? What have I done, to draw this ruin upon me ?”

‘ His fears had taken such possession of his heart, that it was difficult to undeceive him, as to the cause of my coming ; difficult to persuade him that there was any prospect of his being restored to his liberty.

‘ At

‘ At length, when he saw his chains
‘ taken off, and the doors of the prison
‘ opened to him, a new anxiety seized his
‘ soul; “ But will they restore me my
‘ effects also?” said he, stopping short
‘ at the door of the prison, and fixing
‘ his eyes earnestly upon me: “ if not,
‘ of what advantage is liberty? I had
‘ better die here, than be obliged to beg
‘ my bread among strangers. My misery
‘ will be shorter, at the least.”

‘ I could scarcely suppress his emotions
‘ sufficiently for him to appear before the
‘ arbiters of his fate. I soothed! I
‘ comforted! I encouraged him to hope
‘ the best; till I in some measure recalled
‘ his reason, and made him present to
‘ himself; for I was not permitted to un-
‘ fold to him the immediate occasion of
‘ his release.

‘ When at length I introduced him to
‘ them, he answered all their questions
‘ with precision; and undertook to exe-

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‘cute their commission without hesitation,
‘on condition of having his property
‘restored to him, at his return with
‘success.

‘The nature of this commission, and
‘the readiness with which he embraced
‘it, struck me with such horror, that I
‘resolved directly to separate myself both
‘from him and his employers. But that
‘very readiness defeated my design. It
‘made them suspect that he wanted only
‘to get out of their power, and therefore
‘they insisted that I should remain as an
‘hostage for his fidelity.

‘It was impossible for me to avoid
‘agreeing to this condition, without ex-
‘posing him, and probably myself also
‘to destruction; as they would naturally
‘have concluded, that we had concerted
‘a scheme to deceive them. I assented
‘therefore, with an appearance of readi-
‘ness, to that which I did not dare to
‘refuse; and purchased my fellow-tra-
‘veller’s

‘ veller’s liberty at the price of my own,
‘ at least for some time.

‘ The commission entrusted to him was
‘ to buy up all the produce of the year
‘ from the possessors, in order to sell it
‘ back to them at an higher price, when
‘ their necessities should become so press-
‘ ing, as to oblige them to give whatever
‘ should be required for it : the chief hav-
‘ ing an assured persuasion, that they had
‘ buried immense treasures in the earth,
‘ to evade the exactions of himself and
‘ his associates.

‘ It may seem improbable to you, as it
‘ did at the time to me, that any people
‘ should be so infatuated, as to put them-
‘ selves thus into the power of their
‘ known oppressors, for their very sub-
‘ sistence ; but there is nothing so absurd,
‘ which the force of avarice cannot effect.

‘ The merchant, on my objecting this
‘ difficulty, treated it with contempt.

“ Give them,” said he, “ this day, one
 “ penny more than the current price, and
 “ they will accept it greedily, without
 “ ever considering what may be the con-
 “ sequence to-morrow. Present gain is all
 “ which is now looked to in the world.
 “ Beside, am I not armed with power to
 “ compel them, should they unexpectedly
 “ have the imprudence to refuse complying
 “ with my proposals ? They are in a snare,
 “ out of which they can no way escape.”

• Nor did he pay greater respect to the
 • disapprobation which I could not forbear
 • expressing, at the readiness with which
 • he undertook such horrid work.’

“ Your virtue, my friend,” said he,
 “ is too refined ever to be carried into
 “ practice, when placed in the scale against
 “ the most powerful principles of human
 “ nature. I would not willingly commit
 “ injustice, nor lead any man to ruin ;
 “ but when either he or I must be ruined,
 “ the trial is too severe ; and nature will
 “ pre-

“ preponderate, in spite of all the dreams
“ of speculation.”

‘ The scenes of which I was a melan-
‘ choly witness, while the merchant was
‘ engaged in the execution of his com-
‘ mission, were too horrid for description.
‘ I shall only say, that every act of in-
‘ justice and oppression, which avarice
‘ and cruelty could suggest to lawless
‘ power, was practised openly, and with
‘ such insolence that the unhappy sufferers
‘ did not even dare to lighten their grief,
‘ by a plaintive sigh.

SECTION VII.

‘ THE return of the merchant released
‘ me, at length, from the sight of such
‘ misery, from the society of men, who
‘ were a disgrace to the human name.

‘ He had executed their commission,
‘ with unexpected success; and, as I
‘ thought, much more faithfully, than

‘ they performed their promise of reward-
 ‘ ing him for it.

‘ Every time he claimed the restitution
 ‘ of his merchandize, some new difficulty
 ‘ was started, some new delay made, under
 ‘ pretences the most frivolous, and shame-
 ‘ less ; till growing apprehensive that they
 ‘ might compleat their injustice by taking
 ‘ away his life to free themselves from his
 ‘ importunity, he reduced his demand to
 ‘ the means of support in his return to
 ‘ his native country ; their condescending
 ‘ to grant which, after much entreaty,
 ‘ they affected to consider, as an act
 ‘ of the greatest generosity, and favour.

‘ When he was ready to depart, he
 ‘ affectionately pressed me to accompany
 ‘ him. “ Do not be discouraged, my
 ‘ friend,” said he, “ at the unfortunate
 ‘ issue of our journey hither. Matters
 ‘ are not so bad, as they may appear to
 ‘ be. I knew my employers too well,
 ‘ to trust entirely to their justice. An
 ‘ agent

“ agent understands but little of his
 “ business, who can not make it pay
 “ itself.”

“ Had I not before covenanted with my
 “ own heart to separate myself from him,
 “ the very argument on which he rested
 “ his sollicitation, would have determined
 “ me to decline it. I wished him an happy
 “ journey, saying that my fate led me
 “ another way.

“ I was too well acquainted with the
 “ power of habit over the human heart,
 “ to be surprized at this instance of the
 “ merchant’s measuring justice by the rule
 “ of his own interest. It was but con-
 “ sistency of character. Not that I can
 “ say, I was displeased with the conse-
 “ quence, how much soever I disapproved
 “ of the motive of his conduct. His
 “ employers, and he, had been guilty of
 “ equal breaches of trust; and I there-
 “ fore adored that Power, which thus

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made:

• made one act of injustice punish another.

• The condition, upon which I had
 • consented to stay among these people,
 • being thus fulfilled, I resolved to take
 • the first opportunity of departing, with-
 • out giving them any notice of my de-
 • sign; being taught by their treatment of
 • the merchant, what confidence was to
 • be placed in their promises, and appre-
 • hensive that they might think me too
 • deeply acquainted with the mysteries of
 • their iniquity to dismiss me.

• While I waited for such an oppor-
 • tunity, the success of the merchant's
 • commission appeared in effects, not to
 • be recollected without horror.

• The natives, as he had predicted,
 • either from avarice, or compulsion, had
 • sold him all the produce of the land,
 • which his employers no sooner got into
 • their

• their possession, than they raised the
• prices to such an height, that the
• wretches, after having expended every
• resource to purchase indispensable sup-
• port, were reduced to all the dreadful
• extremities of famine; while the au-
• thors of their ruin looked on, with un-
• concern; nor would relax their extortion
• to save the very name of the people
• from being blotted out, from among
• the inhabitants of the earth.

• Virgins offered themselves to violation
• in the streets, for a mouthful of food.
• The son sold his father into slavery. The
• mother devoured the infant, which
• sucked her breast. The living were
• not able to bury the dead.

• Amid all these horrors, my soul had
• a peculiar consolation, for some time.
• The jewels, which I had retained by the
• advice of Myrza, now served the bene-
• ficent purpose, for which he had advised
• me to reserve them. I gave them to

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‘ my friend, the Bramin, who disposed of
‘ them, and applied the price to the relief
‘ of the general distress.

‘ But alas ! he proceeded not with suf-
‘ ficient secrecy. He was discovered, by
‘ the inhuman tyrants. He was seized.
‘ He was put to torture, to discover if he
‘ had any more, and from whom he had
‘ received them. He preserved his faith
‘ to me ; and died under the torture,
‘ without making any discovery.

‘ Unfortunate was it for him, that I
‘ knew not of his sufferings, till they were
‘ at an end. My life should not have
‘ been saved, at the price of his.

‘ Such scenes are difficult to be believed.
‘ The pride of conscious virtue is unwil-
‘ ling to admit even a possibility of the
‘ human nature’s sinking so low. But
‘ when it is considered by whom these
‘ crimes were perpetrated, it will be
‘ owned,

‘ owned, that they were no more, than
‘ might have been foreseen.

‘ The weight of power is too great to
‘ be sustained, under the most advan-
‘ tageous circumstances. It too often
‘ intoxicates the best head; and warps
‘ the best heart. What then must its
‘ effects be, in the opposite extream ?
‘ How could it rationally be expected;
‘ that men raised to absolute power, from
‘ the lowest state of servility, and from
‘ the lowest poverty, should be able to
‘ resist the temptation of abusing that
‘ power to acquire wealth ; when such
‘ abuse was, in a manner, justified by
‘ practice, and encouraged by impunity ?

SECTION VII.

• AS I had been detained by these
 • events, beyond the time of my pro-
 • mised return to my father, I felt the
 • anxiety of his love, for my safety ; and
 • therefore, for the greater expedition,
 • embarked secretly in a ship, which was
 • intended to sail directly for Suez, pre-
 • ferring the performance of so dear a
 • duty to any pleasure or advantage, which
 • I could promise to myself, in the further
 • pursuit of my travels.

• Heaven seemed at first to smile upon
 • our way. We sailed with a favourable
 • wind, till we entered the straits of
 • *Dira*, when a violent storm arose, which
 • in despite of all the efforts of our ma-
 • riners, who struggled with it, for seve-
 • ral days, at length drove our ship upon
 • some rocks, where she was instantly torn
 • to pieces.

• It

‘ It is impossible to describe what I
 ‘ felt in that dreadful moment. The
 ‘ darkness of midnight was condensed
 ‘ tenfold, by the fury of the storm. All
 ‘ was horror, and dismay.

‘ Though the most resolute had lost
 ‘ every hope of escaping ; we all, in the
 ‘ instinctive impulse of self-preservation,
 ‘ laid hold on such pieces of the wreck,
 ‘ as chance threw in our way, and cling-
 ‘ ing to them, were driven about at the
 ‘ mercy of the winds and waves, in
 ‘ which many perished by a milder death,
 ‘ than awaited most of those who gained
 ‘ the land.

‘ It was my fate, to be thrown upon
 ‘ the shore, without any appearance of
 ‘ life ; a situation, to which, as I after-
 ‘ wards found, I owed my safety.

‘ The day had just begun to dawn,
 ‘ when I recovered my senses, the first
 ‘ efforts of which served only to present
 ‘ me

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‘ me with scenes still more horrible, than
‘ that from which I had escaped. I found
‘ myself entirely naked, at some little
‘ distance from the sea, whither, I sup-
‘ pose, I must have been dragged for the
‘ better convenience of stripping off my
‘ cloaths.

‘ But this treatment, however cruel in
‘ itself, was kindness in comparifon, of
‘ what I saw inflicted on my unhappy
‘ companions, as many of whom as reached
‘ the shore alive, were instantly slaughtered,
‘ and then stripped by the natives, who
‘ instead of relieving a state of distress,
‘ which should have moved every humane
‘ passion, looked upon them, and their
‘ property, as lawful prey.

‘ Shocked as my soul was, at such bar-
‘ barity, nature directed my first thoughts
‘ to my own safety. I lay, as motionless
‘ as if I was really dead, till I saw the
‘ savages depart, laden with the spoils of
‘ the wretches, whom they had slaugh-
‘ tered;

‘tered; when raising myself, as well as
‘weakness and the pain of many bruises
‘would permit, I crept to the sea side to
‘try if I could happily administer relief,
‘to any, who might have escaped, in the
‘same manner with myself, and find some
‘cloaths to cover me, which had been
‘over-looked by the ravagers, in the
‘hurry of their rapacity.

‘But I was disappointed at the first in
‘either hope. They were too well ex-
‘perienced in the work, to leave it un-
‘finished; and I was just going to depart,
‘though I knew not whither, when casting
‘my eyes, once more, wishfully to the
‘sea, I thought I perceived something
‘floating toward the shore.

‘The storm having by this time nearly
‘spent its force, I ventured into the water
‘to see, what the object before me might
‘be; when I found one of my fellow-
‘passengers, with whom I had contracted
‘a particular intimacy, with his arms
‘clasped

• clasped round a coffer, to which he was
 • tied. I instantly raised his head, above
 • the water, and perceiving some signs of
 • life, exerted all my strength, to draw
 • him up on the dry land, where my care
 • soon restored him to his senses.

• The moment he opened his eyes, and
 • saw me busied about him, his situation
 • suggested itself to him in the worst light,
 • my being naked preventing his knowing
 • me ; and making him imagine I was one
 • of the spoilers, with whose nefarious
 • practices he was too well acquainted.
 • Lifting his hands therefore, in a sup-
 • pliant manner, "O ! spare my life,"
 • said he, "spare the life of an old man,
 • who will never disturb your possession
 • of what you have acquired."

• What !' I returned : ' Do you not
 • know me ? Can Hassan be taken for a
 • spoiler, by his friend ?

• He

‘ He started, on hearing my voice, and
 ‘ looking eagerly at me, “ Is it possible ? ”
 ‘ said he, “ Can I be so happy ? But where
 ‘ is the coffer to which I was bound ? If
 ‘ that is lost, my life is of little value to
 ‘ me.”

‘ I then shewed him the coffer, where it
 ‘ still lay in the water, upon which he
 ‘ arose with a vigour, not to have been
 ‘ expected from his situation, and running
 ‘ toward it, “ Let us then secure it in-
 ‘ stantly,” said he, “ before the spoilers
 ‘ come, or they will not only rob us
 ‘ of all it contains, but murder us also,
 ‘ to secure the spoil.”

‘ As soon as he had drawn it to
 ‘ the land, he opened the locks, and
 ‘ taking out a casket, put it into his
 ‘ bosom, and was preparing to depart,
 ‘ without seeming even to think of any
 ‘ thing else.

‘ Such

‘ Such an insensibility to the situation
 ‘ I was in, affected me. “How!” said
 ‘ I; “and will my friend desert me, thus
 ‘ naked and alone?”

‘ He started; and pausing for a mo-
 ‘ ment, as if just awakened from a dream,
 ‘ “Desert you!” he returned; “no, never
 ‘ will I desert my preserver. But what
 ‘ can we do? The spoilers will come
 ‘ upon us, the moment they discover
 ‘ that our ship has been wrecked. The
 ‘ vulture is not more quick to find his
 ‘ prey, nor the tyger more cruel, than
 ‘ the inhabitants of the sea-coasts to de-
 ‘ stroy those, whom the more merciful
 ‘ waves throw into their power.”

‘ I then acquainted him, that they had
 ‘ been already there, shewing him the
 ‘ slaughtered bodies on the shore, to which
 ‘ I added my own condition, as proofs
 ‘ of their bloody rapacity.

‘ His

‘ His thoughts were so intently fixed
‘ upon himself, that he seemed to have
‘ no feeling for the misfortunes of any
‘ other. “ Thank heaven,” said he,
‘ embracing the casket, “ that we have
“ escaped though ; and that my jewels
“ are safe ! But we must not remain here !
“ As soon as they have left their spoil at
“ home, they will return, to try if they
“ can glean up any more. I will share
“ my garments with thee for the present.
“ We shall soon be able to procure
“ every thing we want.”

‘ He was proceeding to strip himself,
‘ when the occasion was unhappily re-
‘ moved. The sea threw up, near to the
‘ place where we stood, the body of one
‘ of our companions, whom finding to
‘ be dead, I yielded to the horrid ne-
‘ cessity of taking his cloaths to cover
‘ myself.

SECTION IX.

‘ WE had not advanced far into the
‘ country, before we discovered a cottage,
‘ the poor appearance of which shewed
‘ the poverty of its inhabitants.

‘ On our approaching the door, which
‘ stood open to give light to the family,
‘ whom we found seated around a little
‘ fire, at a meal of simple vegetables, the
‘ master invited us in the most hospitable
‘ manner to partake of his humble fare.

‘ Though I knew him, at the first cast
‘ of my eye, to be one of those, who
‘ had been most active in murdering and
‘ spoiling my unhappy companions, my
‘ astonishment was not greater at the pre-
‘ sent contrast in his conduct, than to
‘ hear him address us, in the Byrsan
‘ language.

‘ Gracious

‘ Gracious heaven !’ I exclaimed, ‘ where
 ‘ am I ? Is it possible that this is the
 ‘ country of the Byrfans ? That such
 ‘ barbarous crimes should be committed,
 ‘ in defiance of the most beneficent laws ?’

‘ The cottager, who knew not the cause
 ‘ of my exclamation, appeared to be sur-
 ‘ prized ; nor made me any answer, till I
 ‘ repeated my question, when he in-
 ‘ formed me, that I was in my native
 ‘ country.

‘ But my companion, who understood
 ‘ my meaning, having often heard me
 ‘ boast of the laws of Byrfa, as superior
 ‘ to those of all other nations, would not
 ‘ miss such an occasion of reproving my
 ‘ vain partiality. “ Why should not such
 “ crimes,” said he, “ be committed in
 “ this country, as soon as in any other ?
 “ It is not the laws, but the execution of
 “ them, which hath an effect upon the
 “ manners of a people. The best laws,
 “ if badly administered, only encourage
 “ the

“ the crimes, which they were designed to
“ prevent.”

‘ The cottager, having directed us the
‘ way to Byrsa, returned to the sea-coast,
‘ to seek for more spoil, in contempt of
‘ every argument, I could use to dis-
‘ suade him; while we proceeded toward
‘ the house of my father, my heart pant-
‘ ing with filial love and joy, at the
‘ thought of being so near him.

‘ The contradiction between the conduct
‘ of the cottager, when at home, and on
‘ the shore, was so striking, that I could
‘ not forbear expressing my surprize
‘ to my companion, who accounted for
‘ it, in a manner most disgraceful to the
‘ polity of any civilized people.

“ The nature of man,” said he, “ is
“ in itself benevolent. Cruelty is ever
“ the consequence of error in opinion or
“ of bad example. In his cottage you
“ saw this man, in his natural character.

“ His conduct, on the shore, proceeded
 “ from a notion derived from the laws of
 “ times of ignorance, and barbarity, that
 “ the plunderers could not be compelled
 “ to make restitution of their spoil, if no
 “ man belonging to a ship, which was
 “ wrecked, remained alive to claim it.

“ If then, the legislature of Byrsa
 “ really merited the praise, which you
 “ have so lavishly bestowed upon it,
 “ would not proper means have been
 “ taken to eradicate such a notion, and
 “ prevent its horrid consequences, by
 “ confiscating to the state every wreck,
 “ where all the people perished ; and on
 “ the other hand, allowing a part thereof
 “ to the inhabitants of the coast, in pro-
 “ portion to the number of lives saved by
 “ them ; instead of the present absurd
 “ method of punishment for plundering,
 “ which they evade by murdering all,
 “ who might prove their guilt ?”

‘ Though this objection was not to be
 ‘ answered, I could not suppress the ex-
 ‘ ultation of my heart, at the appearance
 ‘ of happiness, which shone in every
 ‘ place we passed through, as we ad-
 ‘ vanced toward the capital ; nor forbear
 ‘ pointing it out to my companion, as the
 ‘ best vindication of our laws.

‘ But he viewed matters in another
 ‘ light. “ Moderate your pride,” said he,
 ‘ till you see whether it is well founded.
 ‘ When I view the face of the country, I
 ‘ think myself in paradise. But when
 ‘ I consider the inhabitants, my opinion
 ‘ is much less favourable. The extre-
 ‘ mities of the land are uncultivated for
 ‘ want of people, who crowd to the me-
 ‘ tropolis, where their labour is wasted
 ‘ in works of vanity. The whole nation
 ‘ is drowned in luxury. They are poor
 ‘ in the midst of plenty. They have
 ‘ much, but they want still more. Their
 ‘ powers both of mind and body are
 ‘ weakened

“ weakened by excess, their principles
 “ debauched by prosperity. In a word,
 “ their happiness hath overflowed its
 “ bounds ; and if this calm continues
 “ much longer, Byrsa will over-set, in
 “ the first storm, which shall fall with
 “ any force upon it.”

SECTION X.

‘ MY meeting with my father is not
 ‘ to be described. He had been for some
 ‘ time sinking under the infirmities of
 ‘ age ; and seemed to have struggled to
 ‘ preserve life, only till he could resign it,
 ‘ in my bosom.

‘ The moment he was informed of my
 ‘ arrival, he called me eagerly to him ;
 ‘ and throwing his arms around my neck,
 ‘ as I kneeled by the side of his bed, “ It
 “ is enough !” said he ; “ Gracious hea-
 “ ven, it is enough. I embrace him once
 “ more ; and now I die content.”—

‘ Then pausing a few moments to re-
 ‘ cover his spirits, unequal to such an
 ‘ excess of joy, “O ! bless my son !” he
 ‘ continued ; “ Enable him to save his”—
 ‘ he would have added, country ; but the
 ‘ word died unfinished on his tongue,
 ‘ (heaven not permitting him to prefer
 ‘ a prayer, which must be ineffectual)
 ‘ and he expired without a groan, in my
 ‘ arms.

‘ Having performed the last duties to
 ‘ his honoured remains, I determined to
 ‘ devote the residue of my days to the
 ‘ cultivation of my mind in retirement,
 ‘ every thing I saw around me, giving me
 ‘ a disgust to the world.

‘ I had found such pleasure in the con-
 ‘ versation of my late fellow-sufferer in
 ‘ the shipwreck, whose benevolence of
 ‘ heart, and judicious acquaintance with
 ‘ the ways of man opened themselves
 ‘ upon me, more and more, every hour,
 ‘ that

‘ that I would have persuaded him to
‘ remain with me.

‘ But all my persuasions were ineffec-
‘ tual. He had fixed his mind upon re-
‘ turning to his native city of Cairo, and
‘ there ending his days, among his family.
‘ We parted with the sincerest sentiments
‘ of mutual esteem.

SECTION XI.

‘ I have informed you of the claim,
‘ which the Byrsans made to the neigh-
‘ bouring country of the Coptes. It had
‘ pleased heaven to lead me home, just as
‘ their army was preparing to march, to
‘ enforce that claim.

‘ Though I had determined upon a
‘ retired life, the principles, in which I
‘ had been educated by my father, mak-
‘ ing me disapprove a measure, so con-
‘ trary to justice, I thought it my first
‘ duty to endeavour to prevent it, before

‘ I would attend to any thing, which related solely to myself.

‘ I resolved therefore to demand an audience of the king, to whom my rank in the state gave me a right of speaking my sentiments on public affairs ; and lay before him the reasons of my dissenting from the general voice, on so important an occasion ; not doubting but I should be able to open his eyes to the evils, which must necessarily result from it.

‘ The war appeared to me so flagrantly unjust, that I imagined there must be some secret reasons for it, to which my absence had made me a stranger, or it could never have been resolved on. Before, therefore, I would presume to oppose it, I thought it necessary to enquire more particularly into the matter, as I knew the danger of judging, on a partial view.

‘ For

• For this purpose I went directly to a
 • person, whose having held several of the
 • first offices in the state, I concluded must
 • enable him to give me the information
 • I wanted; and which an alliance be-
 • tween our houses gave me a right to
 • require.

• On entering his habitation, I was sur-
 • prised to find every thing wear a gloomy
 • aspect. The very looks of the servants
 • spoke an unhappy master. He received
 • me, with an air of dignity and respect,
 • but clouded with a reserve, which made
 • it disagreeable, and seemed desirous to
 • confine his conversation to general ques-
 • tions, relating to the countries, which
 • I had seen in my travels.

• This, however, gave me an easy op-
 • portunity of leading him to the subject
 • of the approaching war, without ex-
 • pressly declaring the purpose of my
 • coming, which I apprehended might
 • have made him still more reserved: I

‘ therefore, as occasionally, desired to
 ‘ know his opinion of it, as a direction
 ‘ to mine, which, probably for want of
 ‘ proper information, I owned to be
 ‘ against it.

‘ At the first mention of the affair, I
 ‘ saw his eyes sparkle with indignation,
 ‘ which arose as I proceeded, till it en-
 ‘ tirely dissipated the gloom, which hung
 ‘ upon his brow, and broke through his
 ‘ reserve.

“ I am happy,” said he, with a look
 ‘ of the warmest complacency, to “ find
 “ your sentiments concur with mine, on
 “ this important occasion ; for, if you
 “ are not satisfied with the apparent,
 “ much less will you be, with the real
 “ motives of this war. The former have
 “ at least something like a colour, how-
 “ ever false, of justice ; because it was
 “ necessary to deceive the people, who can
 “ never be led into any thing, which they
 “ know to be unjust, how easily soever
 “ they

“ they may be deceived ; but the latter are
 “ a mystery of the grossest iniquity, in
 “ every sense.”

‘ Good heaven !’ I returned ; ‘ Whence
 ‘ can this proceed ? The youth of our
 ‘ sovereign opened with the fairest hopes.’

“ Nor hath he ever fallen from those
 “ hopes !” interrupted he, eagerly. “ One
 “ vice hath never stained his private life,
 “ one act of injustice warped his public
 “ conduct. Yet still, a character, less
 “ pure, might have proved more advan-
 “ tageous to his people. To form a pro-
 “ per judgment of a man, his station
 “ must be considered. The virtues most
 “ sublime in a subject, are often but
 “ amiable weaknesses in a sovereign.

“ I see that your absence hath made
 “ you a stranger to the secret springs,
 “ upon which our government moves at
 “ this time. The balance between its
 “ parts, and their mutual check upon

“ each other, which gave it the pre-emi-
 “ nence over all the other governments:
 “ upon earth, exist now only in name.

“ The superior council, by dissipating:
 “ the property, appointed to support its
 “ independance, is fallen absolutely under
 “ the influence of the crown; as the in-
 “ ferior daily betrays to it the trust com-
 “ mitted to them, to acquire matter for a
 “ like dissipation; the gratification of
 “ luxury being the only object attended:
 “ to by every class of mankind.

“ You may naturally conclude that the
 “ power of the sovereign must become:
 “ absolute by this prostration of the
 “ fences, instituted to restrain it. But the
 “ contrary is the fact. All the power,
 “ which he seems to obtain in this man-
 “ ner, is wasted in the very means, made
 “ use of to obtain it; and himself kept
 “ in a kind of slavery to the instruments
 “ of this corruption, in which they have
 “ so entangled the whole system of go-
 “ vernment,

“ vernment, that it now appears to be
 “ one of its first principles ; and often
 “ compels him to give the sanction of his
 “ name and authority to measures, the
 “ most contrary to his own sentiments ;
 “ of which there can not be a stronger
 “ instance, than this war, which is lite-
 “ rally forced upon him, by his servants,
 “ though as contrary to their inclinations,
 “ as to his ; their ambition and abilities
 “ being equally limited to the dark works
 “ of seduction.

“ But the people have of late begun to
 “ look so narrowly into their conduct,
 “ and to shew such symptoms of discon-
 “ tent, that apprehensive of the conse-
 “ quence, they adopted this expedient to
 “ turn the attention of the public from
 “ themselves, blazoning the war, with
 “ such hopes of private advantage, as
 “ have made the injustice of it easily pass
 “ unnoticed.

“ Nor is the power of this hope to be
 “ wondered at. We have lived so far
 “ before-hand, that it is terrifying to
 “ look forward. Not only private for-
 “ tunes are wasted by the luxury, which
 “ is expressly encouraged by the court
 “ for that purpose, that people may be-
 “ come dependant on its favour for sup-
 “ port ; but the very resources of the
 “ state are anticipated to such a depth, in
 “ order to support this system of corrup-
 “ tion, that far from being able to stand
 “ any violent shock, we must of necessity
 “ sink by our own weight, if we are not
 “ saved by some means, impossible for
 “ human reason to provide.

“ The whole system of men’s souls, if
 “ I may use the expression, must be
 “ changed; and another adopted, in every
 “ respect opposite to it : An effect, which
 “ can be produced only by some heavy
 “ misfortune (if such can be surmounted!)
 “ which shall bring the government back
 “ to its first principles.

“ For

“ For my own part, I am so sick of
 “ a world, in which I see nothing but
 “ folly and vice, that if there is not a
 “ sudden change, which I have no reason
 “ to expect, I will anticipate the stroke of
 “ fate, and quiet it.”

‘ The horrid resolution, with which he
 ‘ concluded this melancholy representa-
 ‘ tion, aggravated the pain it gave me,
 ‘ ten thousand fold. ‘ O ! beware,’ I ex-
 ‘ claimed, ‘ of indulging so dangerous
 ‘ a thought ; of tempting the wrath of
 ‘ heaven, by diffidence in its goodness,
 ‘ and power ! A crime, which reason and
 ‘ religion equally forbid ; and madness
 ‘ only can excuse.’

“ Reason,” he answered, “ prompts
 “ me to fly from evil.”—

‘ But not to a greater,’ I interrupted
 ‘ eagerly : ‘ Not to evils, from which
 ‘ there is no flying, no hoping for relief.’

“ Of

“ Of those evils,” he replied with a
 “ contemptuous smile, “ I know nothing.
 “ The phantoms, with which supersti-
 “ tious ignorance was so long terrified, are
 “ at length seen through. Nature seeks
 “ happiness ; and if I can not find it, in
 “ this life, I must follow the pursuit into
 “ another ; if such there is ! It is better
 “ not to be, than be unhappy !”

“ I attempted not to argue with him
 “ farther, as I could plainly see, by the
 “ manner in which he expressed himself,
 “ that contradiction would only confirm
 “ him more strongly in his opinion, and
 “ perhaps stimulate his vanity to hasten the
 “ execution of it.

SECTION XII.

‘ I was diverted from the painful reflections, which such a scene naturally suggested, at my return, by the entrance of a person, who had been one of the most intimate acquaintances of my early youth.

‘ As I had been informed, that he had wasted his fortune, in every mode of idle dissipation and expence, I was most agreeably surprized at his appearance, every thing in which spoke affluence, and a mind at ease. He saluted me with the warmest professions of regard ; and we instantly continued our former intimacy, as if it had never been interrupted.

‘ After some reciprocal inquiries of personal affection, I informed him of the conversation, which had passed, at
‘ the

‘ the visit, from which I was just re-
‘ turned.

‘ He paused a few moments, as struck
‘ by what I had said, then with a look
‘ not well assured, “ I shall not pretend,”
‘ he answered, “ to vindicate in all things,
“ either the measures of the government,
“ or the manners of the age! But the
“ motives of this person’s disapprobation,
“ greatly weaken the force of it. He
“ speaks from the rage of disappointment,
“ not from principle.

“ That political corruption, against
“ which he inveighs with such acrimony,
“ did he himself carry to such lengths,
“ when in power, that it was too gross to
“ be supported; and occasioned his de-
“ posal; nor is there a moral vice, which
“ hath not stained his character; but as
“ some of these vices have been retorted
“ against himself, and he is no longer
“ permitted to practise that corruption,
“ he now declaims against it, in this
“ manner.

“ manner. But you must not trust too
“ implicitly to his representations. Be-
“ cause the world does not go, as he
“ likes, he modestly says it is going to
“ ruin.”

‘ The human heart is so fond of hap-
‘ piness, that we give easy credit to what
‘ we wish. I looked upon the gloomy
‘ picture, which had been drawn to me,
‘ to have proceeded meerly from the
‘ clouds, which over-cast the painter’s
‘ mind; and did not doubt but my friend
‘ would set every thing in a very differ-
‘ ent light.

‘ I therefore desired him to acquaint
‘ me, if there were any reasons for the
‘ approaching war, beside those publicly
‘ given, which I scrupled not to say
‘ were so flagrantly unjust, that I had
‘ resolved to exert my utmost endeavours
‘ to prevent it.

“ My

“ My dear friend,” he answered,
 “ staring at me with “ surprize, what you
 “ say, may possibly be very true; but
 “ these are matters, about which I never
 “ give myself any trouble.”

“ How !” I returned, astonished at what
 “ he said, “ not give yourself trouble about
 “ matters of the greatest importance to
 “ a state, in which you hold so high a
 “ rank ? In the government of which you
 “ have ever undertaken a part, not to be
 “ executed without trouble ? You are
 “ not ; you can not be serious ! But
 “ this is a subject, most improper for
 “ pleasantry !”

“ I speak my sentiments, I assure you !”
 “ he replied. “ I never did, nor ever
 “ will give myself trouble about any
 “ thing. If I would have taken trouble,
 “ with matters of this nature, I might
 “ probably have conducted them myself.
 “ My purpose is to enjoy the pleasures
 “ of

“ of life, while I can, without troubling
 “ myself about consequences, which all
 “ my trouble may not be able to pre-
 “ vent.”

‘ But !’ said I, interrupting him shortly :
 ‘ If you were determined not to take
 ‘ trouble, why did you take an office,
 ‘ which required it ? You know my
 ‘ plainness ! Is it consistent with a just
 ‘ sense of honour, or even with common
 ‘ honesty to take the wages, without doing
 ‘ the work ?’

“ You were always an enthusiast !” he
 ‘ answered with a forced smile ; “ and I
 “ find you will ever remain one. I was
 “ in hope, that seeing the world would
 “ have opened your mind ; and shewn
 “ you the absurdity of such antiquated
 “ notions. I took the office, because I
 “ had occasion for the emoluments of it ;
 “ as the visier gave it, to attach me to
 “ his interest : And on the same terms,
 “ is every office given and accepted.

“ If

“ If you imagine, that any one under
 “ the visier presumes, in virtue of his
 “ office, to do any thing, you are utterly
 “ mistaken. It is he, who virtually does
 “ every thing; and all the other officers
 “ of the state are no better than cyphers
 “ following him, to add to his conse-
 “ quence.

SECTION XIII.

“ BUT let us wave a subject, on which
 “ we only waste our time. I have come
 “ to request a favour from you, which
 “ I promise myself you will not refuse
 “ me.

“ You must know, that I am in one
 “ of the most whimsical situations, pos-
 “ sible to be conceived. You remember
 “ our old friend Mago. The intimacy,
 “ which begun with our lives, hath con-
 “ tinued to this day; though it was lately
 “ endangered by one of the oddest acci-
 “ dents, which ever happened. Can you
 “ think

“ think it possible, that he and I should
“ fall in love with each other’s wife, and
“ succeed in our loves too?

“ For some time, matters went on, as
“ smoothly as we could wish, neither of
“ us suspecting the other, till growing
“ too secure, he happened one day to
“ surprize his wife and me in a situation
“ of more familiarity, than common
“ forms allow. You know his hasty tem-
“ per. He drew his sabre instantly, and
“ advanced to attack me.

“ I am not a coward : but I know not
“ how it happened. A qualm of con-
“ science I suppose came upon me ; and
“ I did not care to run the hazard of
“ losing my own life in so foolish a cause,
“ or adding his death to the injury I had
“ already done him.

“ I therefore demanded a parley, sword
“ in hand ; and after some preliminaries,
“ in making which I believe I looked
“ filly

“ silly enough, I frankly told him, that
 “ in the way he sought satisfaction, the
 “ odds were against him; but that if he
 “ would take my advice, I could direct
 “ him to a better, which would bring us
 “ more upon a level; this was, to return
 “ me in kind the good office I had done
 “ him; and then there would be nothing
 “ to complain of, on either side.

“ The look he gave me, as I said this,
 “ is not to be described. He fixed his
 “ eyes upon me, for a few moments, to
 “ see if I was serious, then bursting into
 “ a loud laugh, ‘Give me your hand,
 “ brother;’ said he: ‘I applaud your
 “ prudence; and to tell you a secret,
 “ have not waited for your permission, to do
 “ what you propose. So let us e’en shake
 “ hands, and make the best of our bar-
 “ gains.’

“ From that day, all was harmony and
 “ good-fellowship between us; to make
 “ which, as we thought, the stronger, and
 “ as

“ as the affair had some way taken wind,
“ we repudiated our own wives respec-
“ tively, and wedded those of each other,
“ to satisfy their delicacy, and repair their
“ reputations.”—

‘ My indignation, which had been
‘ rising still higher, at every word he
‘ spoke, could be restrained no longer.
‘ How,’ I exclaimed, ‘ wed a woman of
‘ whose dishonour you were yourself a
‘ witness! What! though you were an
‘ accomplice in her guilt, your partici-
‘ pation lessened not the crime in her;
‘ nor can you expect that she will be more
‘ faithful to you, than she was to your
‘ friend. In the first step is all the dif-
‘ ficulty. A woman, who hath once
‘ surmounted that, seldom feels any re-
‘ luctance to proceed in the same way.
‘ Beside your own honour—

“ You are too squeamish! quite too
“ squeamish!” he interrupted, not de-
“ siring to hear more. “ The world is
“ grown

“ grown wiser, than to view these matters
“ in so serious a light, as formerly. How
“ can a man’s honour be injured by the
“ levity of a woman? That is another
“ of those antiquated absurdities, which
“ are now only laughed at; and you will
“ soon be ashamed of.

“ As to her future conduct, that is her
“ own affair. If she should be caught
“ tripping, she knows the consequence.
“ What is past is nothing. Custom has
“ sanctified these matters.

“ But to return to my purpose. The
“ mischief now is, that this second mar-
“ riage has spoiled all. Whether it is
“ the thought of restraint, or that there
“ is something disgusting in the name of
“ matrimony, I know not; but so it hath
“ happened, that we were all soon sur-
“ feited of our exchange; and wished for
“ our own back again.

“ Now

“ Now as this is a new case, which will
 “ create a good deal of impertinent noise,
 “ and be attended with much trouble
 “ and delay, what I propose is to have
 “ a law made, which shall authorize an
 “ exchange of wives, as often as all the
 “ parties are willing ; and then the num-
 “ bers, who, I know, will take advan-
 “ tage of it, will keep us in coun-
 “ tenance.

“ The favour, therefore, which I have
 “ to request of you, is to introduce the
 “ matter for me to the legislature, as a
 “ thought of your own, which occurred
 “ to you, in your travels, on observing
 “ the evils, which universally attend in-
 “ dissoluble marriages.

“ The sobriety of your character will
 “ give weight to the scheme ; and obviate
 “ the personal allusions which would be
 “ made, if I were to take the lead in it
 “ myself. You may also, to make the
 Vol. I. O “ thing

“ thing still more popular, add, that no
“ single man shall suffer for having an
“ amour with a married woman, pro-
“ vided he will take her off her husband’s
“ hands, and marry her himself, which will
“ endear you to all ranks of people, much
“ more than opposing the war; such
“ marriages, though allowed at present,
“ and sometimes practised, being attended
“ with so much trouble and expence, that
“ very few can afford them, whereby
“ many a wife is obliged to baulk her in-
“ clinations, and many an husband to
“ wear his horns in silence, for want of
“ such a law to relieve them.”

SECTION XIV.

‘ I know not whether my indignation
‘ or contempt was most moved by this
‘ propofal. ‘ Such a law, as you mention,’
‘ I replied, ‘ seems to be the only thing
‘ wanted to compleat that diffolutenefs,
‘ which marks the character of the Byrfan
‘ nation, with deeper difgrace, than ever
‘ difhonoured any other people.

‘ A legislature, which had a juft fenfe
‘ of honour, inftead of authorifing, would
‘ ufe every poffible means to prevent
‘ fuch infamous marriages. Marriages,
‘ which defeat the very intention of mar-
‘ riage, by providing a reward for that
‘ breach of faith, which it was instituted
‘ to prevent.

‘ The law, too evidently neceffary, is
‘ to brand public vice, with public in-

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‘famy; and prevent a repetition of the
‘breach of matrimonial fidelity, by pro-
‘hibiting the offender from ever marry-
‘ing again. Indeed, so sacred should the
‘honour of the female sex be held, that
‘a woman, who could so far forget her
‘own dignity, as to suffer seduction even
‘in a state of freedom, and without the
‘additional guilt of conjugal infidelity,
‘should not be admitted to marry even
‘with her seducer. As the crime is in-
‘delible, the punishment should be in-
‘evitable.

‘Such was the sense of that people,
‘whose superior virtue over-turned the
‘dissolute city of Carthage, and forced
‘our ancestors to fly from their native
‘country; a fate, which evidently threa-
‘tens their degenerate offspring, and this
‘more dissolute city of Byrsa.’—Saying
‘which I turned away in disdain, waving
‘my hand to him to depart.

§ The

' The horror, with which I was struck
 ' by the conversation of these men, is
 ' not to be expressed. I held it as im-
 ' possible, that a state, in which the only
 ' firm bond of human connection, moral
 ' virtue, is universally broken, should not
 ' separate, and fall to ruin; as I know
 ' it to be, for any other than religious
 ' principles to support man, through the
 ' evils inevitably incident to his nature;
 ' a truth, confirmed by too many melan-
 ' choly instances among the Byrsons, who
 ' ignorant of the illimitable extent of
 ' divine mercy, or not daring to look up
 ' to it, sunk into despair, on the lightest
 ' disappointment; and rashly threw away
 ' lives, which a better sense might have
 ' rendered happy to themselves, and use-
 ' ful to their country.

' Discouraged as I was by these reflec-
 ' tions, I knew it to be my duty not to
 ' despair of the public welfare, or relax
 ' my endeavours to promote it; and there-

‘ fore resolved to go without farther delay
‘ to the king, and lay my sentiments of
‘ the war before him.

‘ As I was departing from my own
‘ habitation for this purpose, I was stopped
‘ by a stranger, who said, with a mysterious look, that he had an affair of importance to impart to me.

‘ On my retiring with him, into an
‘ inner chamber, he told me, he was
‘ sorry to trouble me, on a disagreeable
‘ occasion; but that his friendship for the
‘ person who had just left me, would not
‘ permit his refusing to come from him,
‘ to demand satisfaction for my treatment
‘ of him, in our last conversation.

‘ Such a demand struck me with the
‘ strongest astonishment. I answered, that
‘ his friend must certainly be mistaken, as
‘ I could not charge myself with having
‘ treated

‘ treated him, or any other man ill, in
 ‘ my life.

‘ I suppose he thought I was terrified,
 ‘ and therefore that he might the more
 ‘ safely press upon me. He replied
 ‘ with an haughty air, that his friend
 ‘ had too high a sense of honour to
 ‘ be satisfied with so poor an evasion, and
 ‘ that I must either instantly meet him,
 ‘ or take the consequence of my coward-
 ‘ dice.

‘ But he overacted his part. Such a
 ‘ menace, instead of fear or resentment,
 ‘ raised only my contempt. I answered
 ‘ him with the coldest indifference, that
 ‘ I was surprized to hear honour attributed
 ‘ to a man, who by his own confession
 ‘ had forfeited every claim to it; and
 ‘ that if he thought himself aggrieved by
 ‘ my treatment of him, he must correct
 ‘ the conduct, which had given occasion

‘ for it ; and then he need not fear meet-
 ‘ ing the like from me again.

‘ Such a repulse shewed him his
 ‘ error. Lowering the tone of his voice,
 ‘ he said, “ he hoped I would consider
 ‘ that it was a delicate point ; and
 ‘ wished some method could be found
 ‘ to adjust it, without coming to extre-
 ‘ mities.”

‘ But this moderation was affected too
 ‘ late. I replied, that I knew no me-
 ‘ thod, but that which I had proposed of
 ‘ his changing his conduct in life, upon
 ‘ which I would certainly change mine to
 ‘ him ; and not till then ; and that as for
 ‘ the consequences, which he had thought
 ‘ proper to threaten, I gave myself no
 ‘ concern about them, as I had too just
 ‘ a respect for true honour to pay any
 ‘ to the shadow, which he affected to
 ‘ worship, or submit my own principles
 ‘ to public opinion, by descending to put
 ‘ myself

' myself on a level with a man, who had
' given up every thing really respectable,
' in the human character.

' This was an answer, he seemed not
' to have been prepared for. He paused
' for some minutes, as if considering
' what to reply; and then withdrew
' without even attempting to speak another
' word.

SECTION XV.

‘ AS soon as the agitation, naturally
‘ raised by such a scene, had subsided, I
‘ went to the king; and in the humility
‘ of loyal duty examined before him the
‘ cause, and looked forward to the con-
‘ sequences of the war; and having
‘ shewn that these were as dangerous, as
‘ that was unjust, besought him to inter-
‘ pose his authority to prevent it. .

‘ He heard me with attention; and
‘ even seemed struck with what I said; but
‘ without attempting to refute it, answered
‘ in general terms, that the war was al-
‘ ready resolved upon; and the minds of
‘ the people so intent upon it, that it was
‘ impossible to resist them.

‘ Severely as I was affected by this re-
‘ pulse, it was not the only thing which
‘ gave me pain, on the occasion. No
‘ sooner

‘ sooner was my disapprobation of the war
 ‘ known, than I was appointed to a prin-
 ‘ cipal command in the army prepared to
 ‘ carry it on.

‘ To a person, unacquainted with the
 ‘ principles, which prevailed among the
 ‘ Byrsans, at that time, this must appear
 ‘ a designed insult. But no such thing
 ‘ was thought of; it was intended as a
 ‘ mark of respect; as a gratification of
 ‘ the purpose of my opposition. This
 ‘ must be explained.

‘ There is no human institution, how-
 ‘ ever wise, and salutary in its natural
 ‘ effects, which the depravity of man
 ‘ can not pervert to the most pernicious
 ‘ purposes.

‘ The great council, which Narbal had
 ‘ appointed to assist the sovereign, in the
 ‘ difficulties of government, with their
 ‘ advice; and watch over the interests of
 ‘ the

' the people, with which they, as a part,
 ' must necessarily be better acquainted
 ' than he could be, often acted directly
 ' contrary to that intention, losing all
 ' consequence under a spirited and poli-
 ' tic prince; and on the other hand, when
 ' one of a different character offered op-
 ' portunity, rising upon his weakness, and
 ' usurping the power, while he had only
 ' the name of sovereignty:

' In the former instance, honorary dis-
 ' tinctions, and the emoluments of go-
 ' vernment always afforded a prince, who
 ' had abilities to apply them properly,
 ' the means of influencing the members
 ' of the council, and making them sub-
 ' servient to his purpose; but those, which
 ' they employed against him, may not be
 ' so obvious to you, though they were
 ' equally ready.

' As the council had a right to delibe-
 ' rate upon the measures of government,
 ' it

‘ it was easy for a designing member to
‘ carp at such, as though necessary, and
‘ strictly just, might appear exceptionable
‘ to a superficial view ; in which he was
‘ sure of being followed by the unthink-
‘ ing populace, as the tutelary assertor and
‘ guardian of their rights ; till they raised
‘ him to such a consequence, as enabled
‘ him to enhance the price of his ac-
‘ quiescence with the will of the prince,
‘ or perhaps wrest his authority out of his
‘ hands.

‘ Nothing could be a stronger proof
‘ of the wisdom of Narbal, than that
‘ even so gross an abuse of his institution
‘ was not sufficient to counterbalance the
‘ advantages, arising from this council,
‘ and make the abolition of it necessary ;
‘ the very means, by which this abuse
‘ was perpetrated, preventing the obvious
‘ and worst consequences of it ; and pre-
‘ serving the great principles of the go-
‘ vernment from being lost.

‘ For

‘ For in order to acquire this popularity,
 ‘ it was necessary to explain those princi-
 ‘ ples to the people, who soon saw their
 ‘ interest, and ability to preserve them;
 ‘ and though they joined in their abuse,
 ‘ would never have submitted to their
 ‘ being fundamentally overturned.

‘ On this system therefore the visier
 ‘ judging of me, by all those, who had
 ‘ on other occasions opposed public mea-
 ‘ sures, concluded that the readiest way
 ‘ of gaining me to his interest, was to
 ‘ give me this command, the inconsistency
 ‘ of my accepting which, with my op-
 ‘ position to the war, was sufficiently
 ‘ countenanced by the general practice.

‘ But such an example had no weight
 ‘ with me; and I refused his offer with
 ‘ indignation, till my sovereign himself
 ‘ condescending to request my compliance,
 ‘ personal respect to him, and a sense of
 ‘ the sacred duty of subjection, obliged
 ‘ me

“ me to accept it, however contrary to
“ my inclination.”

“ How blind,” interrupted Temugin,
“ will attachment to a favourite system
“ make the best informed mind? This
“ man, who wanted not wisdom in other
“ matters, could see no imperfection, in
“ the principles of a government, which
“ teemed with the cause of its own disso-
“ lution, from the first hour it was insti-
“ tuted. A state, in which the power of
“ the sovereign can be counterbalanced
“ by that of his subjects, is like a body
“ without an head, and must necessarily
“ fall to ruin.

“ I will hear the conclusion of his
“ story at some other time.”

End of the FIRST VOLUME.

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